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Celebrity Buzz

Barton A-OK says site

pg 34

City spa clients soaked in scheme

FRAUD They were stealing from the rich to live like the rich.

Police say four fraudsters went on designer shopping sprees, stocked their fridges in their Yorkville condos with groceries from some of Toronto's priciest supermarkets and even furnished a business of their own.

And they did it all, plowing through close to $500,000, by installing a scanner at the Elmwood Spa, which recorded credit card numbers and personal data from 216 people, mostly women.

Spa management and victims had no idea they were targeted. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Auto

- **We introduce you to some value vehicles to drive you through the economic rough-spot, pg 15**

This week

- **Food — Wine columnist Peter Rockwell introduces us to some budget vintages.**

Leafs **Taking it outdoors**

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jason Blake of the Toronto Maple Leafs warms up before the team's outdoor practice at the High Park rink yesterday. The Leafs host the New York Rangers tonight at 7:30 p.m. Yesterday, the club announced it was raising its ticket prices. See story pg 11

Too much Taser use

They came to launch a vigorous defence of Tasers, but by the time police representatives left they'd conceded officers have used the devices too often and need to tone it down.

Canada's two main police associations held a news conference yesterday on Parliament Hill in which they lashed out at claims the devices are potentially deadly.

They said the public has been misinformed that the energy weapons cost lives and RCMP Commissioner William Elliott's observation Tasers can kill had been twisted out of context.

They said Tasers actually save lives, and offered two examples where people were stunned while threatening suicide.

Police said 150 studies have failed to find a link between Tasers and deaths. But they repeatedly refused to say which studies they had consulted before developing their Taser policy.

"Do your own homework," said Julian Fantino, head of the OPP, when asked to cite a single study.

"There's 150 studies worldwide."

Charles Momy, head of the Canadian Police Association, says all police officers should be authorized to use Tasers when their safety or public safety is at risk.

But at the end of the news conference, the officers said Tasers had been used too often. The vice-president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police said the devices should no longer be discharged against peaceful suspects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PG 4

No helmets, premier says

SAFETY Ontario won't force kids to wear helmets while skiing even though such a law may have saved the life of a 13-year-old boy who died in a ski accident last week, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

South Korean exchange student James Moon was skiing with other students last Wednesday when he lost control and hit a tree at the Snow Valley ski resort in central Ontario. He wasn't wearing a helmet.

His death has renewed calls for legislation that would require children to wear helmets while skiing.

Ultimately, it's up to parents to make sure their children are safe from the dangers associated with the sport, McGuinty said.

"I just think as parents, we should give some serious thought now — if we're going to put the kids on skis — to making sure they are properly equipped and safe."

Growing up in Ottawa, McGuinty said he often skied with his large family, but no one gave any thought to wearing a helmet. All that changed when he heard about Moon's death, he said.

Last weekend, he bought a helmet and wore it while skiing with his daughter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Teen faces 10 charges after gun seized
A 19-year-old man faces 10 charges after police seized a semi-automatic pistol following a downtown foot chase. The suspect was driving a vehicle around Parliament and Gerrard Streets just before 1 a.m. Monday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Local

Plan aims to cut oxycodone use

The provincial coroner's office has launched a plan to reduce the high number of Ontario deaths caused by a highly addictive prescription painkiller often trafficked as a street drug. The move was prompted by a Toronto Star investigation into soaring deaths rates from oxycodone, a drug commonly sold as the painkiller OxyContin and called "hillbilly heroin" on the street, where a $4 pill sells for $45. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Take Five Pg 35

Tomorrow's Metro

Food
Wine columnist Peter Rockwell unearths the best bottles at bottom-of-the-barrel prices.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Mario Dumont steps down as head of ADQ amid lingering regrets at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 0 7 1; **Ontario Pick 4** : 8 8 0 2
Encore: 0760065
Daily Keno: 2, 7, 14, 17, 19, 22, 24, 28, 35, 40, 42, 46, 47, 53, 55, 61, 62, 67, 68, 69.
These results are not official.

MPP wants big fines for guns on transit

An Ontario Liberal backbencher wants the federal and provincial governments to pass stricter laws to prevent violence on public transit.

Mike Colle is proposing a bill that would impose a fine of up to $50,000 for anyone carrying a weapon onto a public transit vehicle.

He's also asking for a two-year sentence for anyone who commits an act of violence against a transit employee or passenger.

Colle said recent incidents such as Monday's shooting of a 17-year-old boy on a Toronto transit bus show the violence is spiralling out of control.

"With the recent near-fatal shoving incident at the Dufferin subway station, the armed robberies of the Lawrence West and Yorkdale subway stations, and the shooting at Osgoode subway station, it is clear that it is getting out of hand," Colle said yesterday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

TTC says system is still safe

• TTC, transit officials and police gave repeated assurances yesterday that buses and subways remain safe in the wake of recent shootings. "These incidents are isolated and, yes, they happened on the (transit) system but they could just as easily have happened on a street corner, in a park, anywhere in the city," TTC spokesperson Brad Ross said.

News in brief

ROBBERY Durham region police are searching for two suspects who beat a convenience store employee with a baseball bat and robbed a Mac's Milk on Wentworth Street West in Oshawa on Sunday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

City freezes development fees

HOUSING The fees developers pay when they build new homes in Toronto will be frozen for the next two years, city council has decided.

And even when a higher fee schedule does kick in after the freeze, the higher charges will become effective only if a minimum number of building permits has been issued in the previous year, indicating a healthy demand for new housing. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

ROM A seven-metre-long book

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The seven-metre-long Ancient Book of the Dead of Amenemhat is being installed today as part of Egypt month at the ROM. Exhibition curator Dr. Krzys Grzymski, left, and Gayle Gibson use a flashlight to examine the scroll in the darkened room.

Girl, 16, dead after being hit by car in Vaughan
A 16-year-old girl is dead after being struck by a vehicle in a Vaughan intersection. An SUV and a car collided on Langstaff Road at Ansley Grove Road, near Pine Valley Drive, just after 4 p.m. One of the vehicles was knocked across the road where it hit the teen. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Group upset at energy audit plan

Premier Dalton McGuinty is defending a plan to saddle homeowners with a mandatory $300 energy audit as part of his Green Energy Act, dismissing critics who say this is yet another way to tax overburdened residents.

Forcing people to conduct audits is a good idea, McGuinty said, because it will allow buyers to know their energy costs.

"When it comes to buying the single most expensive thing that you're likely to buy during the course of your lifetime — a home — you're entitled to know what kinds of costs you're going to incur when it comes to energy," McGuinty said.

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
'The Energuy' energy auditor Scott Silverthorn conducts an energy evaluation yesterday in Toronto.

"We want to make sure that you can compare one house to another on an apples to apples basis."

Ontario realtors, however, said the additional costs will hurt homeowners in what are increasingly difficult economic times.

"The results of these audits will be used by home buyers as bargaining chips to significantly reduce the final selling price," said Gerry Weir, president of the Ontario Real Estate Association.

"Home sellers are already worried about lost equity in their homes. A move like this, which will reduce their value even further, will not help them in any way."

The group also notes there isn't one standard for energy audits and no regulation of auditors.

"The question that immediately came to my mind is: what then? After you do the energy audit, what happens?" asked Mel Fruitman of the Consumers Association of Canada.

Progressive Conservative critic John Yakabuski said the mandatory audits will simply mean more stress for homeowners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City turns down Marlies tickets

FREEBIES The request seemed simple enough.

The Central Ontario Building Trades union asked city councillors to distribute Toronto Marlies tickets to youth groups or city agencies for youths.

But given the city's sensitivity to freebies or benefits in light of the MFP computer leasing scandal, Coun. Brian Ashton thought he should check to see if it would be proper.

Winnie Li, director of council and support services, said it would not be appropriate to accept the hockey tickets.

The Central Ontario Building Trades, which represents 25 trade unions, purchased 4,500 tickets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harper not keen on high-speed rail link

TRAINS Prime Minister Stephen Harper is frowning on a proposal for a high-speed rail link between Ontario and Quebec that would boost the economy and help the environment, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

Without federal support, the proposed link between Windsor, Ont., and Quebec City may never get off the ground, McGuinty said.

"I continue to be a big fan of (the plan), as does (Quebec Premier) Jean Charest," McGuinty said.

"The prime minister is not as much of a fan on this score."

McGuinty didn't say what objections Harper may have to the proposal, which has floated around for more than a decade.

There are plenty of reasons why it should go ahead, McGuinty said.

"I like it because it fights climate change, it fights traffic congestion — so it enhances our productivity levels — it creates jobs, and it enhances our quality of life," he said.

"I like it because it fights climate change, it fights traffic congestion ... it creates jobs, and it enhances our quality of life"
Dalton McGuinty

Experts have advised the province to do a better job of connecting big communities to build a strong economy, he added.

"It does all those things, which is why I think it's a worthwhile project."

The federal government has said in the past that Canada wasn't yet ready for high-speed trains.

While they may not see eye-to-eye on the project, the three governments are jointly spending $3 million for another feasibility study.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SARS victims set to face off against province in court

LAWSUIT It's been nearly six years since the first cluster of SARS cases appeared in Toronto hospitals and those most directly affected — hospital patients, nurses and their families — have waited almost that long for their day in court.

The Ontario government heads to court today in a legal battle with SARS victims, who argue the province placed concerns about tourism and the economy ahead of eradicating the deadly disease.

The province argues members of the public have no right to sue the government for failing to stop the spread of a communicable disease.

SARS, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, killed 44 people, all in the Greater Toronto Area.

Lawyers for the attorney general are asking the Ontario Court of Appeal to throw out five lawsuits filed on behalf of dozens who were infected, including a group of 53 health care workers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE REASONS TO GET ON THE GO

STARTING MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009 THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICES.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST GO TRAIN SERVICE

The weekday 7:32 a.m. eastbound train from Aldershot will now originate at the Hamilton GO Centre departing at 7:17. Times remain the same at other stops along the route but arrival at Union Station will now be at 8:32 a.m.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO BUS SERVICE

The weekday southbound 4:55 a.m. trip from Lincolnville will now originate in Uxbridge (Railway & Spruce) departing at 4:35, serve Goodwood (Hwy. 47 & Front) at 4:48, then Lincolnville and all stops at the existing times. Arrival at Union remains the same at 5:50 a.m.

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Teen driver runs over boy waiting to board school bus

A seven-year-old boy in southern Alberta was killed yesterday morning when he was hit by a vehicle driven by a teen who failed to stop for a school bus. RCMP say the lights on the bus were flashing when it stopped near Millarville to pick up three students. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

ADQ leader admits to failure

Mario Dumont admits he is stepping down as leader of the Action démocratique du Québec with a certain sense of failure for never having led the party to power. Dumont announced yesterday he will resign as leader on March 6, after more than 14 years at the helm of the party. THE CANADIAN PRESS

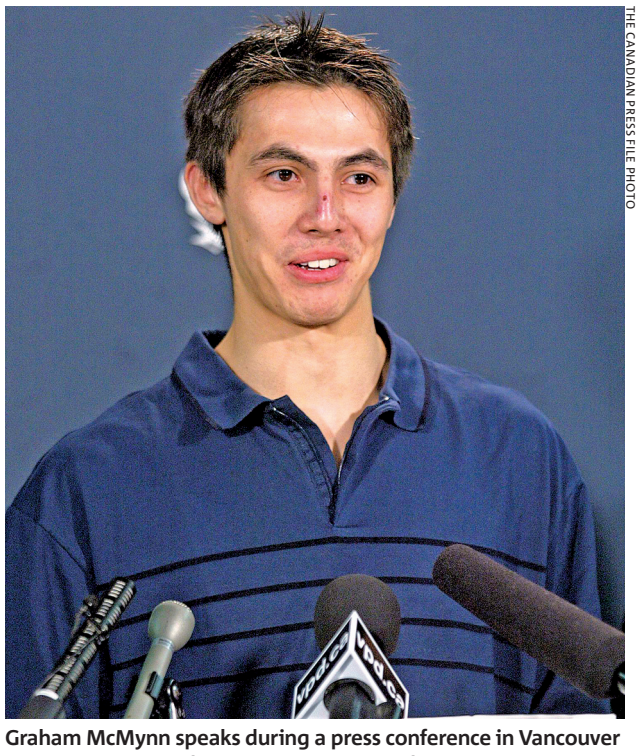
McMynn's kidnappers sentenced

B.C. Three men convicted of kidnapping the son of a Vancouver businessman three years ago have received prison terms ranging from eight to 13 years.

Purported leaders Jose Hernandez and Anh The Nguyen received 12 and 13 years respectively for the kidnapping and unlawful confinement of university student Graham McMynn, while Sam Vu was given eight years for unlawful confinement. Two others were acquitted. A juvenile is scheduled for trial March 2.

McMynn was grabbed at gunpoint in April 2006 as he and his fiancée were driving to the University of British Columbia. He was held for eight days, bound and blindfolded with duct tape, enduring threats of rape, loss of a hand and death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Graham McMynn speaks during a press conference in Vancouver on April 13, 2006, after being held captive for eight days.

Crisis could hit Canada harder

Consumer confidence hits new lows. Housing prices crumble to 2003 levels. Unemployment insurance claims rise five per cent in one month.

The three sobering indicators reported yesterday point to an economy that, if not in free-fall, is close to it. But are they describing the severe recession in the United States or Canada?

In actuality, only the third item listed is a Canadian statistic. But economists say both countries are suffering from the same economic malaise, even though the federal and provincial governments are in better financial shape and Canada's banking system is among the soundest in the world.

"I know that the conventional wisdom uniformly shared is that Canada will fare better than the U.S., but I wouldn't be so sure," says David Wolf, chief economist for Merrill Lynch.

> **"This financial crisis is a bit like a tsunami."** David Wolf, economist

"This financial crisis is a bit like a tsunami, and although the epicentre was in the U.S., it doesn't matter how far away you are, the impact depends on what your coast looks like. And Canada has a particularly bad coast because we're a small economy, we're an open economy and it faces the U.S."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INQUIRY RCMP Const. Gerry Rundel testified yesterday at the inquiry into the events around Robert Dziekanski's death at Vancouver's airport that he and his fellow officers didn't say a word to each other before confronting Dziekanski and didn't ask any witnesses what had been happening.

QUEBEC First-degree murder charges have been laid against the father of two young children found dead in a home north of Montreal. The charges have been filed, but it's not clear how or when Guy Turcotte would be arraigned.

PRIZE Retired accountant Martin Neva from Sudbury, Ont., and his wife Marlene have come forward with one of the four winning tickets for last weekend's $50.3-million Lotto 6-49 jackpot draw. The couple laid claim to their $12.5-million share yesterday in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Auto parts plant closing
The ArvinMeritor plant in Tilbury, Ont., which makes brakes for the trucking industry, is shutting down on June 3. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moral panic fuelled rumours, inquiry told

The public's tendency to presume the guilt of people accused of sexually abusing children allowed a "moral panic" to take root in Cornwall and rumours of a pedophile clan to flourish, a public inquiry heard yesterday.

There are safeguards in the Canadian legal system to ensure an accused is presumed innocent unless proven otherwise, but no such safeguards exist for public perception, said lawyer Giuseppe Cipriano.

In 1992, a 35-year-old former altar boy came forward with allegations he was sexually abused by both probation officer Ken Seguin and Rev. Charles MacDonald.

Seguin committed suicide in 1993 and was never charged. MacDonald was investigated three times, charges were laid after the third, but were eventually stayed because the case took too long to come to trial.

A moral panic ensued when further allegations of sexual abuse involving high-profile local officials emerged and rumours abounded that a clan of pedophiles was involved in bizarre sexual rituals, said Cipriano, the lawyer for the estate of Seguin.

Cipriano was joined by MacDonald's lawyer, Michael Neville, in arguing changes to the system are needed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mandate

- The inquiry's mandate is not to examine the veracity of the clan theory. Rather, it was established to probe how public institutions handled allegations of sexual abuse.

News in brief

MISSING Concern is growing over the fate of a 20-year-old man from Kingsville, Ont., who hasn't been seen since Jan. 26. Jeff Renaud, a student at McMaster University in Hamilton, was last seen boarding a bus in the city for Toronto. Hamilton cops are treating the case as a missing persons investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fontaine wants cash for schools

EDUCATION Canada's top aboriginal leader says more money is needed to build and upgrade native schools.

There are 42 First Nations in the country without schools and double that number with schools in terrible disrepair, Phil Fontaine, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said yesterday.

He told an aboriginal education summit in Saskatoon that shortfall doesn't make sense when population trends indicate aboriginal youth will make up more than one-quarter of elementary school students in the next 15 to 20 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. Supreme Court grants states more power over Indian lands
The U.S. Supreme Court yesterday limited the federal government's authority to hold land in trust for Indian tribes, a victory for states seeking to impose local laws and control over development on Indian lands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Bishop shoves reporter

A Holocaust-denying bishop flew out of Argentina under a government expulsion order yesterday after scuffling with a reporter at the airport. A television station showed Richard Williamson shoving a reporter into a pole with his shoulder as he hurried through Buenos Aires' Ezeiza international airport to catch a flight for London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama offers reassurance

U.S. President Barack Obama promised a country shuddering in economic crisis last night he would lead it from a dire "day of reckoning" to a brighter future, summoning politicians and public alike to shoulder responsibility for hard choices and shared sacrifice.

"The time to take charge of our future is here," Obama declared, delivering his first address to a joint session of Congress.

Offering words of reassurance to an anxious country, he declared: "Tonight I want every American to know this: we will rebuild, we will recover and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before."

To deal with the current crisis, deepening each day, the president, who was cheered robustly as he entered the House of Representatives chamber, said more money will be needed to rescue troubled banks beyond the $700 billion set aside last year.

We will rebuild, we will recover and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before."
U.S. President Barack Obama

Obama said he knows the bailout billions for banks are unpopular — "I promise you, I get it" — but added that is the only way to get credit moving again to households and businesses.

Along with aid for banks, he also called on Congress to move quickly on legislation to overhaul outdated regulations on financial markets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TURKEY A Kurdish politician defied Turkish law yesterday by giving a speech to parliament in the Kurdish language. State-run television immediately cut off the live broadcast. Members of his party gave Ahmet Turk a standing ovation. Other legislators were upset. Turkey's Kurds, who make up a fifth of the population, have long been repressed by the state.

CLIMATE A NASA mission to monitor global warming from space ended yesterday when a satellite plunged into the ocean minutes after launch. An equipment malfunction was apparently to blame. The loss of the $280 million mission came a month after Japan launched the world's first spacecraft to track global warming. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romania **A long way from home**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Chinese construction worker eats a sandwich given by a local while others stand in queue to get the the same treat in Bucharest yesterday. Hundreds of Chinese workers are camped outside their embassy in Bucharest trying to get home because Romanian construction companies, some running out of business, have failed to pay them for the past two months.

Third child dies in blast blamed on Canadians

AFGHANISTAN The blast of a mortar shell that Afghan villagers say came from Canadian artillery claimed a third young victim yesterday when a four-year-old child, Juma Gul, died in a Kandahar hospital.

The boy was one of three being treated following the blast that killed two others Monday — Gul's 13-year-old brother Sadar Mohammed and his 12-year-old friend Amed Jan — near the village of Salehan, west of Kandahar.

Azeem Khan, head of the village council, said he believes the children — who were in an area that had been used for range practice by Canadian soldiers the day before — found unexploded munitions.

"The children were playing with that (when) it exploded on them," he said.

Afghan provincial police officials, who initially accused the Taliban of firing a rocket at the children, said Khan's scenario was likely, but added the investigation would continue.

The deaths prompted a gruesome protest Monday in Kandahar city, where the young bodies of the first two victims were put on display amid shouts of "Death to the Canadians" from the angry mob.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Six shot at Mardi Gras parade

CELEBRATIONS A Mardi Gras parade erupted into chaos on Fat Tuesday when gunshots struck six people, including an infant. The infant was not seriously hurt and two suspects were in custody, police said.

The shootings happened at about 1:40 p.m. after the last major parade of the celebration, Rex, had ended. Hundreds of truck floats that follow the parade were passing when gunfire broke out.

"It sounded like a string of fireworks, so I knew it was more than one shooter," said Toni Labat, 29, who was with her two children. "Everybody was petrified. They hit the ground, the floats stopped, everybody on the floats ducked."

Two male suspects, ages 18 and 20, were in custody and three weapons had been recovered, police said. It was not immediately clear whether the shots were random or if they were aimed at the victims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO HYDRO PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE

Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited is making progress in remediating handwells and streetlights. As of Friday, February 20, 2009 an estimated 74% of the handwell and streetlight assets had been inspected. Inspections and remediation are taking place during the daytime. Mobile voltage sweeps, and repairs if necessary, are continuing at night when streetlights are energized.

As reported earlier, the accelerated action is being taken after a report that some children received a minor shock. Toronto Hydro immediately deployed all non-emergency crews to its contact voltage program. All available resources have been assigned to find and remediate equipment that may pose a safety hazard.

Once handwells have been remediated the handwell cover is sprayed red. The red is temporary and serves as a signal to other Toronto Hydro employees working in the same area that the handwell has been inspected. The red paint should only last a few days to a week depending on weather conditions. Toronto Hydro reminds customers that it is always a good idea to stay clear of electrical equipment.

Toronto Hydro urges anyone who is concerned about contact voltage in their neighbourhood to stay clear of the area and immediately call our **dedicated hotline at 416-222-3773**.

For more information, please visit **www.torontohydro.com/voltageinspection**

toronto hydro electric system

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Syria builds missile facility on site bombed by Israel
Diplomats say Syria has built a missile facility on the site of an alleged nuclear reactor that Israeli warplanes bombed in 2007. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi police, pilgrims clash

Saudi police have clashed with Shiite pilgrims near a cemetery in Islam's second-holiest city, leading a Shiite cleric to appeal to the king to put a stop to the "insults" of the religious police.

Shiite witnesses said the first clash took place Friday after religious police filmed female Shiite pilgrims outside the al-Baqee Cemetery in Medina, which contains the graves of revered imams. When male relatives demanded the police turn over the tapes, there was a scuffle and the men were arrested. Afterward, hundreds of pilgrims gathered outside the cemetery, demanding their release. Riot police used batons to disperse the crowd.

On Monday night, another confrontation took place when religious police banned female Shiite pilgrims from visiting an area reserved for them outside the cemetery. Police used batons against the angry Shiite crowd, estimated at 3,000 to 4,000. Sunni onlookers also joined the fray, attacking Shiite pilgrims.

On Tuesday, when police once again prevented people from entering the cemetery, the pilgrims drew knives and attacked, injuring two policemen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the kingdom

- Shiites make up a small minority of Saudi Arabia's 22 million people.
- Women are banned from visiting cemeteries in Saudi Arabia so special viewing areas are created for them.

Cost cutting move leads to 5 deaths

SYRINGES A North Carolina company is accused of bypassing sterilization tests for medical syringes in a cost-cutting move prosecutors say sickened hundreds of patients and led to five deaths.

U.S. authorities have launched an international search for AM2PAT plant CEO Dushyant Patel. Two former plant workers have pleaded guilty for their roles in shipping tainted syringes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

LAUNCH North Korea said yesterday it is preparing to shoot a satellite into orbit. The statement comes amid growing international concern that the Communist country is gearing up to fire a version of its most advanced missile — capable of reaching the United States — in coming days, in violation of a UN Security Council resolution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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L-R: William Holman Hunt, *The Awakening Conscience* ©Tate, London 2009. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The Bower Meadow*. Manchester City Galleries. William Holman Hunt and Frederic George Stephens, *The Light of the World*. Manchester City Galleries.

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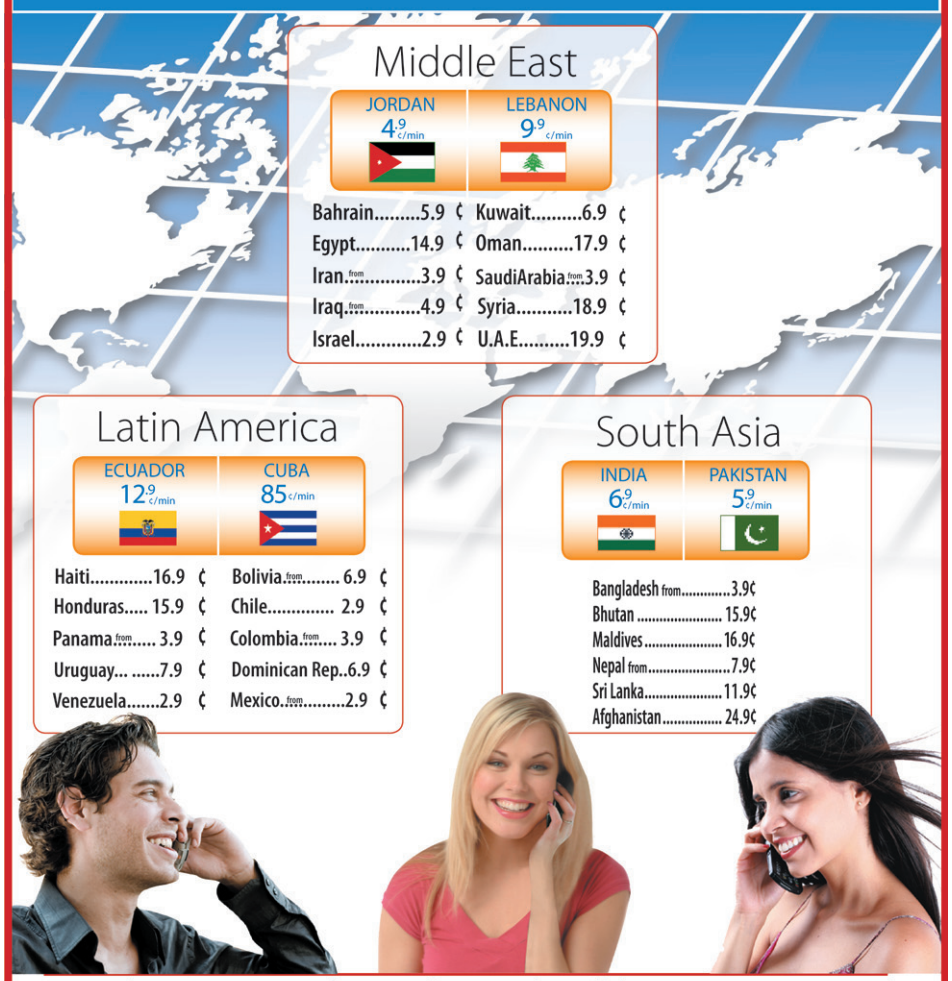

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Apartment fire in New York's Chinatown leaves one dead, dozens injured

A fire ripped through a six-storey apartment building in New York's Chinatown early yesterday, killing a 32-year-old man and injuring 28 other people, including some who jumped from windows on the fifth and sixth floors, before it was brought under control. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crown Princess to marry boyfriend

WEDDING Sweden's Royal Court says Crown Princess Victoria, 31, will marry her boyfriend Daniel Westling in 2010.

Victoria and Westling, a 35-year-old gym owner, became a couple in 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Octomom' falls fast from grace

For just a day or two last month Nadya Suleman was known as Miracle Mom, the woman who gave birth to octuplets.

But the public soon learned that she was also Single Mom, Unemployed Mom and Welfare Mom. And as fast as you could Twitter "I hate Nadya," scores of websites were dedicated to denouncing the so-called Octomom, others to making fun of her, a rap music video lampooned her ("pops 'em out like a toaster/needs a pacifier holster") and angry citizens threatened to kill her publicists.

Suleman

It didn't help that Suleman bears a striking resemblance (some speculate plastic surgery) to that other famous mother, Angelina Jolie, and that she's been said to be looking for book, TV and movie deals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

DROWNED Six African migrants drowned and 11 more are presumed dead after smugglers in the Gulf of Aden forced their passengers overboard in deep water off Yemen after noticing Yemeni police onshore. The smuggling boat was carrying 40 Somalis and 12 Ethiopians.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Do we believe in freedom of speech?

TheWestView

Do you believe in freedom of speech? Of course you do. It's the cornerstone of our democracy. It's etched in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: "Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms ... b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication."

Pay attention, freedom lovers. Just because it's in the Charter, don't believe everything you read.

What if I asked the question this way: Do you believe in freedom of speech for David Ahenakew? He's the Saskatchewan aboriginal leader who was first convicted, then acquitted, of spreading hate for expressing the following opinion:

"The Jews damn near owned all of Germany prior to the war. That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure that the Jews didn't take over Germany or Europe. That's why he fried six million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the goddamned world."

When he was acquitted Monday, the B'nai Brith said the verdict is inexcusable, and that Canadian hate crime legislation needs to be reviewed, i.e. strengthened.

Of course there are numerous human rights tribunals that could still discipline Ahenakew. B.C.'s code, for example, says simply that a person must not publish or cause to be published anything that discriminates against a person or group, or exposes them to hatred or contempt. Under B.C.'s code, it would be much easier to find Ahenakew guilty.

I could ask the question this way: Do you believe in freedom of speech for The Ottawa Citizen? The paper was found guilty of libeling a former cop, Danno Cusson, who took it upon himself to go to New York in the wake of 9/11 with his dog, trying to free trapped survivors. The Citizen called it an ill-conceived misadventure; Cusson was offended and sued — and was awarded $125,000 by a jury.

Now it's before the Supreme Court of Canada, where media lawyers are pleading for libel laws to be liberalized. Obviously, we do not really believe in freedom of speech. Instead we argue about it. Sometimes restrictions seem to make sense; who wants some guy going around the country spewing hateful lies about Jews? In others, we're not so sure. To shut a reporter up, should all you have to do is sue for libel? Not a good idea if we want the truth to emerge.

Here's the thing.

If we believe in "freedom" we have to tolerate lies as well as truth, errors as well as accuracy.

Freedom of speech protects us all from the consequences of our utterances and idiotic notions.

Freedom of speech is clear: If you think it, you can say it.

So one more time, do you still believe in freedom of speech? For me, the answer is still — and always will be — yes.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

Word on the street: What are you planning to do with your tax return? Splurge or save? And why?

Diana Iakossavas
age 24, Toronto
A: I'll probably put it into my savings. That's what I usually do with government cheques. To me, it's extra money, so I just throw it in my savings.

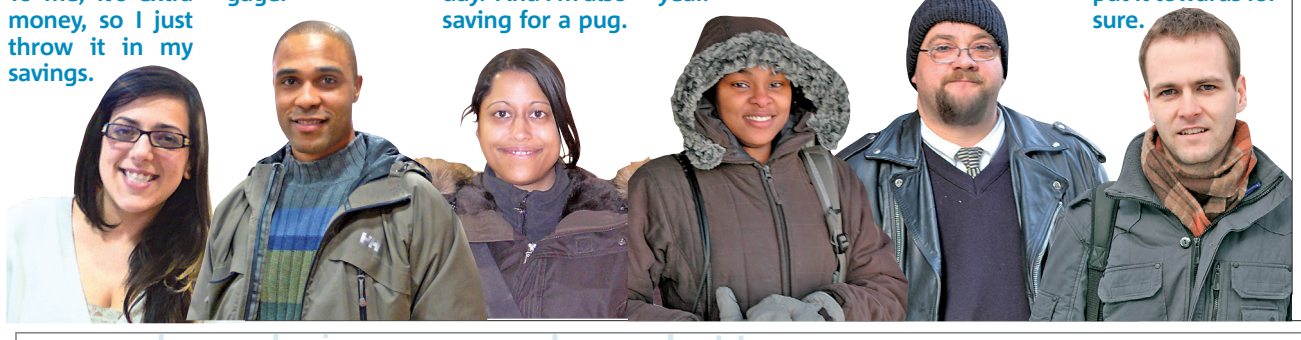
Dwayne Bromfield
age 34, Toronto
A: My wife and I are planning to reinvest in our house, and we're trying to pay down our mortgage.

Meena Chopra
age 36, Toronto
A: Save. Not necessarily because of the economy, but just to be safe, to put it away for a rainy day. And I'm also saving for a pug.

Katheryn Serieux
age 36, Ottawa
A: I don't think I'm getting a tax return this year. I'm pretty sure I'm going to end up paying this year.

Mike Jetty
age 40, Ottawa
A: I'm saving. You just save it, you know, for a rainy day

Paul Chafe
Halifax, Nova Scotia
A: Definitely save. I'm a student and I have a lot of expenses that I need to put it towards for sure.



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Storm Exploration's profit doubles

Oil and gas producer Storm Exploration says its fourth-quarter profits doubled on higher commodity prices and an investment gain. The Calgary-based company said net income was up $5.9 million, up from $2.8 million from a year ago. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

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	US$	$1.2433		

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Maple Leaf recalls tainted wieners

LISTERIA More than 26,000 packages of wieners have been voluntarily recalled by Maple Leaf after thousands were mistakenly shipped out despite testing positive for Listeria, Maple Leaf said yesterday.

Some of the 450-gram packages of Shopsy's Deli Fresh All Beef Frankfurters and Maple Leaf Hot Dogs made it to market in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

In brief

JOBLESS Statistics Canada reports that 538,200 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance benefits in December — 25,000 or 4.9 per cent more than in November. The number rose by 79,100 between December 2007 and December 2008, up 16.6 per cent.

MEDIA Toronto-based Thomson Reuters Corp. said yesterday its fourth-quarter profit grew 52 per cent to $656 million, or 79 cents per share,from a year ago, topping Wall Street forecasts. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Home Depot caught in housing undertow

The Home Depot, which has suffered under the weight of the collapsing U.S. housing market, reported a fourth-quarter loss of $54 million US yesterday mostly due to its plan to shut four home-improvement brands.

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Customers walk into a Home Depot in Pittsburg, Calif., Monday.

North America's largest home improvement retailer lost three cents a share during the quarter, compared with a profit of $671 million, or 40 cents a share, a year ago.

Last month Home Depot said it planned to close Expo Design Centers, YardBIRDS, Design Centers and HD Bath, a bath remodeling business. The company has been hurt as fewer of its customers are buying new homes and spending money on repairs and remodeling.

Home Depot has said it plans to eliminate 7,000 jobs, or about two per cent of its 300,000 workers. Most of the cuts affect workers at the four businesses being closed.

At the end of 2008, Home Depot had more than 2,274 stores, including 176 in Canada.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HudBay may see shakeup after deal fails

MERGER HudBay Minerals will likely see a complete shakeup of its board of directors and management team in favour of a more conservative, low-risk approach after the collapse of a merger deal with Lundin Mining, analysts said yesterday.

If the deal had been approved, it would have created one of Canada's largest publicly traded base-metals companies.

But the friendly merger arranged by the two companies was scrapped Monday night after the proposal provoked fury among some significant HudBay shareholders.

Toronto-based HudBay's main operations are in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Marbury finally part ways with Knicks
Stephon Marbury was waived yesterday by the New York Knicks, ending a turbulent five-year stint with the team. ESPN reported last night Marbury will sign with the Boston Celtics. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Tiger ready for 'rush'

Tiger Woods, left, returned to the links yesterday for the practise round of the Accenture Match Play Championship, which begins today in Arizona. "Of course I'll be nervous. That's the greatest thing about it, just to feel that rush," said Woods, who hasn't played since ACL surgery last July. His first opponent will be Australian Brendan Jones.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Leafs raise prices for next season

NHL A recession isn't usually the best time to raise prices. Nor is the timing exquisite when the product — in this case the Toronto Maple Leafs — is less than peak market value. But that's what Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment is doing by asking season ticket holders for an extra 3.5 per cent next season.

Tom Anselmi, MLSE executive VP and COO, said yesterday the time is never right to raise prices, but rising costs and a falling dollar have left the league's most profitable franchise with no choice. "We're basically operating on '03-'04 prices," he said. Anselmi said season-ticket holders were notified of the price increase last Friday. He said the team hasn't received any negative feedback.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NBA RESULT

Wolves 110 **Raptors** 118

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES vs

When it comes to the Minnesota Timberwolves, the Raptors always seem to find a way to win.

Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani scored 26 points apiece to lead the Raptors to 118-110 victory last night for their 10th consecutive win over the T'Wolves.

Anthony Parker added 24 points for Toronto (23-36), which beat Minnesota with a balanced offensive onslaught. Six Raptors scored in double figures with Jose Calderon adding 15 points and 13 assists, Jason Kapono finishing with 11 points and Shawn Marion scoring 10 points and adding eight rebounds.

The Raptors stumbled through the first quarter and fell behind by as much as 16 points early in the second, prompting boos from the Air Canada Centre crowd. But in their last appearance at the ACC before departing for three games out west, they came to life in the second, outscoring the visitors 27-19.

Toronto took an 84-82 advantage into the fourth.

Bosh was playing in his third contest after missing five with a knee injury, and this was definitely his best.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Bosh drives into the Timberwolves' Kevin Love last night. Bosh scored 26 points in Toronto's 118-110 win.

A-Rod prepared for hostile snowbirds

Alex Rodriguez is prepared for the worst when he plays in the New York Yankees' spring training opener today.

The game against the Blue Jays at Dunedin, Fla, will be his first since admitting that he used a banned substance while playing for Texas from 2001-'03. He's used to playing before hostile fans.

"I've had good practice the last eight years," Rodriguez said yesterday. "No expectations. Hopefully I get three good at-bats and get some good running in."

He expects to meet soon with investigators from Major League Baseball, who want to speak with him before he joins the Dominican Republic for the World Baseball Classic. The Dominicans start workouts Monday.

"I'm just waiting to hear from somebody," Rodriguez said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wells out two

- Vernon Wells expects to miss only two weeks rather than the four reported Monday after an MRI showed he re-injured the left hamstring that kept him on the disabled list for a month late last season.

"I don't think it's that big of a deal," Wells said yesterday. "This time of the year, it's just basically get healthy and get ready for the season." Wells said the worst-case scenario would limit him to starting as designated hitter when the regular season begins April 6 against the Detroit Tigers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

NFL The Indianapolis Colts have released Marvin Harrison, ending the star receiver's 13-year stay with the team. The 36-year old Harrison is second in NFL career catches, but is coming off the least productive season of his career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under-20 roster highlights a catch-22

Perhaps it's a no win situation. This week, the Canadian Soccer Association announced its roster for the run up to the Under 20 World Cup in Egypt this fall.

Either by design or by default, players professionally trained in Canada will represent half of this year's roster — a trend starkly different in years past, when players with a European pedigree were given the nod.

It's a testament to the growing soccer infrastructure here as clubs like Toronto FC, the Montreal Impact and the Vancouver Whitecaps are having an ever-growing influence on developing talent.

Vancouver alone speaks for seven of the players on this year's squad — and for good reason. Their professional development program — widely considered one of best in North America — begins as early as age 11 for some athletes and combines development programs, a residency system with scholarships and two tiers of professional ranks.

But, if the Whitecaps get their wish and join the MLS in 2011, it may all be for not.

As it stands now, the MLS has a very backward approach to player development.

Teams are encouraged to have academies and produce their own talent, but it was only last year when they were allowed to begin signing those players to contracts — and MLS rules state a team can only sign one academy player every three years.

If Vancouver gets in, their residency could take a big hit as players see their prospects of joining the local professional ranks dry up. That could mean a return of less locally groomed talent in Canada.

The good news is: with the MLS expanding to 18 teams by 2011, teams will need to start signing development players to accommodate the demand.

The bad news is: as it stands now, not one team in the MLS has signed a player from their academy.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Sunday at metronews.ca

TFC Blog

- For details on Toronto FC's signing of Canadian Adrian Serioux and a schedule of the 2009 Nutrilite Canadian Championship, visit www.metronews.ca/blogs

JustSoccer

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Detroit	27	28	.491
Philadelphia	27	28	.491
Milwaukee	28	31	.475
Chicago	25	31	.446
New Jersey	25	32	.439
New York	24	32	.429
Indiana	24	35	.407
Charlotte	22	34	.393
TORONTO	23	36	.390
Washington	13	43	.232

d-division leader

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 118 Minnesota 110
Cleveland 94 Memphis 79
Miami 103 Detroit 91
Orlando at Chicago
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City
Dallas at San Antonio
Portland at Houston
Charlotte at Phoenix

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	OT	P
d-Boston	41	12	8	90
d-Washington	38	18	5	81
d-New Jersey	38	19	3	79
Philadelphia	32	17	9	73
Montreal	32	22	7	71
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	7	69
Florida	30	22	8	68
Buffalo	31	24	6	68
Carolina	31	26	5	67
Pittsburgh	29	26	6	64
TORONTO	22	26	12	56
Ottawa	23	27	9	55
Tampa Bay	20	28	12	52
Atlanta	22	33	6	50
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42

d-division leader

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 3 Vancouver 0
Ottawa 4 Carolina 2
Anaheim 3 Buffalo 2
Atlanta 4 Colorado 3
Boston 6 Florida 1
Philadelphia 4 Washington 2
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Los Angeles at Minnesota
Phoenix at St. Louis
Columbus at Calgary
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Metro Workology exclusive: Matters of the Heart

Don't miss Matters of the Heart, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. There are jobs to be had that focus on falling in love, falling out of love and everything in between; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Workology

Diverse universities

McGill University, and the universities of Toronto and British Columbia were among 35 workplaces chosen as Canada's Best Diversity Employers for 2009. One reason uToronto was chosen is partly due to the creation of a LGBT human resources committee to train other HR staff about issues regarding sexual minorities. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Sex sells in a recession

Matters of the Heart

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

We're all familiar with the adage, "In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes." But if Cory Silverberg had his way, wedged somewhere between the two extremes would be sex.

"People aren't going to stop having sex," says Silverberg, co-owner of Toronto sex shop Come As You Are. And during a recession, he says the number of opportunities for sex seems to multiply. "Especially if you have a lot of people that are out of work, they have a lot more time on their hands."

Silverberg says it would be too easy to say economy-driven stress inhibits relaxation and, as a result, sexual activity. Instead, he taps sex as a solution for many who use it as an escape or to reduce anxiety.

Surveys support that finances don't necessarily thwart fornication. A recent telephone poll by American buyer advocacy magazine Consumer Reports found a failing financial system didn't slow sex lives of nearly 80 per cent of respondents.

And while other goods are seeing curbed consumption, condom sales appear to be growing. Media research firm The Nielsen Company reported a six per cent rise in the contraceptive's U.S. sales in January, over the previous year.

ALL PHOTOS BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Seen here are some of the flora and (faux) fauna that populate Come As You Are, a sex shop at 701 Queen St. W.

But, even if people aren't sacrificing the most intimate of pleasures when times are tight, Silverberg holds that's no reason to be confident about his store's presently sustained sales of sex toys. People don't need sex toys to have sex, but he says you can at least try to get more bang for your buck.

"What we're seeing is that people are buying more expensive stuff, because it's better quality," says Silverberg. "People are buying fewer things but paying more and going for things that are going to last longer."

Losing your job may restrict one's ability to splurge on sex, but Come As You Are offers a sliding scale of toys for both genders. From budget vibrators at $12, through mid-range fleshlights starting at $65, to luxury dildos that exceed $100, the store caters to a cross-section.

That wide appeal is established in the store's name and is one Silverberg identifies as a motivation.

Come As You Are has an educational mandate; only selling toys, books and DVDs they've tested and reviewed to ensure no racism, homophobia or sexism makes its way into the store.

"There is no one way to be sexual and there is no one way to want to learn about sex," he says. "But we wouldn't do it any other way because we put a lot of ethics and morality into what we do."

For Metro's Matters of the Heart exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work

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Arctic research funding dried up
With federal funding set to expire by March of next year, the Nunavut-based Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory faces an unstable future due to lack of funding. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Employment law basics

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin
dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com

"CRITICISM MAY NOT BE AGREEABLE, BUT IT IS NECESSARY."
–WINSTON CHURCHILL

This is as true in law as it is in life. Here is a sampling of some of the questions I received this week and the cautionary advice I provided to those employees.

UNJUST PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS: Employees often declare that a critical or negative review is either a form of harassment or management's concoction to force their resignation. This is not always so. For an unwarranted review to amount to a wrongful dismissal, an employer must have acted in bad faith and prevented the employee's improvement. Anticipating the havoc from the possibility that a critical evaluation could invite an employee to resign and then sue, in a recent Ontario case, the judge noted that negative reviews, per sé, do not lead to dismissal. Employers must be able to discuss work performance in an open and candid fashion "so long as the discussion is proffered in good faith." Therefore, for a court to tolerate an employee's lawsuit on these grounds, it must agree that a reasonable person would not be able to continue her job based upon a single or series of critical evaluations.

HARASSMENT: Most employees I consult with view themselves as harassed. But unlike a change in compensation or a clear demotion, harassment is a subjective concept, meaning that to make out a successful claim, it may depend more on the judge you happen to draw than the facts of your case. For harassment to amount to a meritorious claim, the employee must show that he or she was treated with incivility, unfairness or disrespect or that management's conduct was designed to cause the employee to leave. Not any form of perceived mistreatment will suffice: The conduct complained of must be such that no reasonable employee would be expected to persevere.

CALCULATING SEVERANCE PAY: There is no rule of thumb. Seldom is severance pay based on arithmetic. Courts do not follow any defined rules in calculating how much severance to pay to a particular employee. Neither does your ex-employer. Rather, a judge's task is to consider all of the circumstances that either hinder or help a dismissed employee to find a new job. Four factors consistently prevail: Tenure, age, re-employability and the type of job being performed. Ask yourself how long it would reasonable take to find a comparable job and this is how much severance you should get.

EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS: Today, most of the workforce has a written employment contract. The result is that employees unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum severance, demoted, banished to far away jurisdictions, see their salary slashed, prevented from competition following their departure, and have promises broken at their employer's pleasure — all with legal impunity. Have a contract reviewed by legal counsel before signing off.

OFF DUTY BEHAVIOUR: Employees who believe that their conduct away from the office is immune from discipline are mistaken. Employers have the technological means — and occasionally the inclination — to monitor behaviour that occurs away from the job. And where off-duty behaviour poses a problem, don't be surprised when it follows you back to your desk.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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The Carleton University chapter of Students Against Israeli Apartheid will go ahead with a controversial lecture series, despite warnings from the university about expulsion. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Humber students rack up awards, scholarships

JOSEPHINE LIM
for Metro Canada

Josh Saltzman says he's goofy and because of this, a career in comedy is right for him.

"I just loved making people laugh," says Saltzman, a graduate from Humber College's creative writing program. "You can get away with so much if you're a comedian."

And he's being recognized for it.

Saltzman and his partner, Laura Cilevitz, won the 2008 Tim Sims Encouragement Award — an award presented to promising comedians or troupes — for their comedy piece Seven Minutes in Heaven.

The team won a chance to write, produce and star in their short comedy that'll be broadcast on The Comedy Network this year. They've also won $5,000, which they've decided will go toward covering travel expenses and admissions into comedy festivals.

Seven Minutes in Heaven is based on a couple, Greg and Danielle, who are totally in love, yet have a dysfunctional relationship. Through this, the duo teaches relationship lessons.

Saltzman says the piece was inspired by an old 1970s comedy show, Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour, as well as past relationships with bits directly from Cilevitz's ex-boyfriends.

That's not to say that Cilevitz's the only one lending inspiration.

Cilevitz says Saltzman motivated her to study comedy at Humber College.

"He talked highly about it (Humber College) and … he's so talented," she says. "I thought, 'Really, I can go to college and study comedy.' It just sort of seems like how I got to see this."

And it doesn't stop there. For a career, they both fell into unexpectedly, this has been a big break. Both of them plan to continue working toward making their careers a success.

Meanwhile, another Humber student, Jonathan Challoner, is working his way up. The 21-year-old trumpet player won $1,000 from the 2008 IODE Ontario Scholarship in Music Performance Award.

The Vancouver native says he took to music quickly and it has become his medium to meet others.

"It seemed like communicating through playing," says Challoner. "It really worked for me and that's when I thought that this is something I could do for the rest of my life."

He came to school specifically to Toronto because he says there isn't as much of a musical community back home. With him graduating this year, he's still got a long way to go.

"Well, I'm going to over the next few years try and promote my own work and my own bands," says Challoner. "This scholarship will really help for I'm thinking of doing a masters degree in jazz performance at York (university)."

As for how Humber feels about its students, Joe Kertes, the dean at the school of creative and performing arts, says he's proud.

"It's the most gratifying thing of all because it's not enough to say you have tremendous programs," says Kertes. "We are making sure that they are competing with the best and they can keep up with the best. These three are examples of winners."

Well travelled

- Humber student and IODE scholarship winner Jonathan Challoner has performed with the Grammy All-Star Band and has received a Galaxy Rising Star Award.

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Metro Drive

Auto show still a big draw

Despite the gloom surrounding the auto industry, the 2009 edition of the Canadian International Auto Show, which ended Sunday, managed to draw 253,384 in attendance, organizers say. In 2010, the auto show will be held Feb. 12-21.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

(Above) The Toyota Yaris offers great mileage and durability in the small hatchback category; (top right) the Nissan Versa is one of the least-expensive cars currently available in the market; and the Jeep Patriot may be an inexpensive SUV but it's got enough oomph to impress a date.

Maximum bang for buck

Top value cars for tough times and tight budgets

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

What better way to ride out the recession than in a new set of wheels. While we're not trying to sound glib about the whole mess, if you're one of the lucky ones in a position to buy a new car, truck or crossover, this is probably the best time in decades to go shopping.

Here are Metro Drive's Top 10 value choices spread over a few categories to help point you in the right direction.

SMALL COUPE: CHEVROLET COBALT XFE ($15,300)

No one would consider the Chevrolet Cobalt to be a thrilling ride, but General Motors now offers the XFE (or eXtra Fuel Efficient) package standard on any LS model equipped with a five-speed manual transmission. Thus equipped, it gets better highway fuel mileage and more standard power than either the Honda Civic or Toyota Corolla.

SMALL SEDAN: NISSAN VERSA ($12,498)

Currently one of the least expensive new vehicles in Canada, this entry-level Versa comes only in sedan form with a smaller engine and manual transmission. Not exciting to drive, but good interior space, excellent fuel economy and luxury-car ride make it perfect for around-town shuttling.

SMALL HATCHBACK: TOYOTA YARIS ($13,315)

Only the three-door hatch qualifies for the low price, but a little more than $13,000 gets you Toyota's evergreen Yaris. Not many niceties come with it, but it will sip fuel and outlast your grandchildren.

GO ANYWHERE HATCHBACK: SUZUKI SX4 JX AWD ($21,195)

For those itching to have four driven wheels at the best price, Suzuki offers its neat SX4 hatchback. While front-wheel drive models start at $17,000, you need to get a mid-level JX model for the all-wheel-drive option. For that price, you get a smartly styled, spacious, go anywhere vehicle that's solid and dependable.

Riding the Recession

WAGON: VOLKSWAGEN JETTA WAGON 2.0 TDI ($25,775)

One of the few remaining true station wagons out there, the Jetta can now be optioned with the company's brand new, ultra-clean, low-emissions turbo-diesel engine. With amazing highway economy numbers and a full-tank range of nearly 1,200 km, you could go for weeks before actually needing to find a fuel station.

LUXURY CAR: HYUNDAI GENESIS ($37,995)

Just because you can afford to buy a new BMW or Mercedes-Benz doesn't mean you should. The new Genesis luxury sedan can play with the best of the world for half the price. Powerful V6 means there's no need to drop the extra coin on the V8 model. Oh, and it's the 2009 North American and Canadian car of the year, the first time for a Korean automaker.

The award-winning Hyundai Genesis.

MINIVAN: MAZDA5 ($20,195)

The six-passenger Mazda5 mini-minivan is the most fuel-efficient of the people-haulers for sale, plus it adds great looks, dual sliding doors and good road-holding abilities to the mix. Both back rows can fold flat for even more cargo-hauling flexibility.

SMALL SUV: JEEP PATRIOT SPORT 4X4 ($18,845)

The car-based Jeep Patriot will go almost anywhere you need, getting good fuel economy in the process. Interior is much improved versus last year's, meaning you won't be embarrassed to take your date out in one.

PICKUP: FORD F-150 ($25,699)

While not much has changed externally, the new F-150 has seen thousands of modifications under the skin to help maintain its title as the best pickup truck value on the market. Much like a Swiss Army knife, this one can be built from basic to ridiculous... but even the "contractor special" regular cab short-box model is an impressive achievement.

Things to keep in mind when buying

- If you're in the market, now is a fantastic time to purchase a new vehicle. With so much uncertainty, dealers are likely to be very flexible on what you can pay. The "window sticker" price won't reflect what you pay ... For example, the new Ford F-150 has a $4,000 "cash" price rebate offered already, while the Chevrolet Cobalt XFE has $3,100 off.
- Do your research! Figure out what you want to pay, and be prepared to walk away from any negotiation if it's not what you're looking for. If you're not paying cash, try to secure financing through your own bank first as manufacturer-offered lease and finance rates may not be the best.

Toyotas galore on Black Book list

WINNERS Canadian Black Book has released its fourth annual "Best Retained Value" winners among passenger cars and light-trucks under $70,000. The awards, based on data gathered from four-year-old vehicles (in this case 2005 models), determine a vehicle's ability to retain value from its original MSRP.

Expanded from Black Book's traditional "top five" brands named, this year they have chosen top individual models from manufacturers.

"Every brand contains weak performers, there is greater value to the consumer in identifying specific models that out-perform the pack," said Larry Shred, executive vice president of CBB. "Since the awards measure actual value retained and not a prospective look, consumer confidence in the model is strengthened based on actual performance."

Canadian Black Book commends Toyota Canada for posting an unprecedented five models in the top 10.

"This list also demonstrates the faith buyers place in the Toyota brand and its solid reputation," Shred said.

About half of the models in this year's top 10 are from the compact segment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Top 10 list

- The 2009 top 10 models for retained value are:

1. Toyota Rav4
2. Dodge Sprinter
3. MINI Cooper
4. Toyota Echo
5. Smart Fortwo
6. Honda Civic
7. Toyota Tacoma
8. Toyota Corolla
9. Toyota Matrix
10. Mazda Mazda3

- The top five models posting the largest percentage increase in retained value over last year are the Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Kia Spectra, Nissan Sentra, and Toyota Echo.

Don’t fear the hybrid battery

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz
Veteran auto journalist

Everybody’s got some phobia. Heights? Confined spaces? Naked mole rats? For me it’s Ryan Seacrest.

I start watching something on television and Seacrest pops up as host, well, I just might need medication.

The phobia that I find most interesting, however, is the one some people display when you ask them to consider purchasing a hybrid.

Of course, there are many hybrid converts, and their numbers are increasing as we speak. But there seems to be this sizeable group that is prone to hanging garlic cloves and a crucifix on their doors whenever they see a hybrid in the neighbourhood. And the rationale for their fears usually comes down to preconceived notions about the electric drivetrain — that it is complicated, difficult and expensive to repair, and not reliable and/or durable for the long haul.

But judging from the experience of taxicabs in Western Canada, nothing could be further from the truth.

Of course, there are many hybrid converts, and their numbers are increasing as we speak. But there seems to be this sizeable group that is prone to hanging garlic cloves and a crucifix on their doors whenever they see a hybrid in the neighbourhood.

Operators in Victoria and Vancouver were among the first anywhere to use Toyota Prius models as taxi vehicles.

Legend has it that the first hybrid cab pioneer was Andrew Grant of Vancouver. Back in 2001, he put a first-generation Prius on the road for taxi duty. His experience convinced his colleagues to also take up the cause. Before long, cities on Canada’s west coast, and then Calgary, and then Winnipeg, were all crawling with Prius taxicabs.

Driving this development were, are, three factors: Fuel efficiency (particularly in city driving); battery packs that last longer than anyone would have predicted; and significantly reduced repair and maintenance costs.

Those skeptical of hybrid battery life base their notions on batteries in computers or cellphones. Overcharging and undercharging is what kills them in those applications.

In a hybrid, a computer system doesn’t allow batteries to drop below a 40 per cent charge, or raise much over a 70 per cent charge. In that sweet spot they can charge and discharge virtually indefinitely. Keeping them cool, via the vehicle’s on-board cooling systems, also extends battery life. Net result: Battery packs are lasting longer than anyone thought they would.

Another welcome surprise is how few brake jobs need to be performed on hybrid cabs. A hybrid’s regenerative braking system takes a huge load off conventional braking system parts, such as pads, rotors, and calipers. They end up lasting much, much longer than we’re used to, and in a high mileage application like a taxi cab, this can add up to significant savings.

This is not to say there haven’t been any hybrid component failures, but they don’t fail any more than do “conventional” components, like transmissions, starters and alternators.

So if you’re considering a hybrid, don’t fret about the durability of its electrified elements. They are more serious things to worry about, like Ryan Seacrest getting his own afternoon talk show.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

The MINI John Cooper Works

The future of sporty is small

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Going down the gears as I shot uphill in my Fiat 500 Abarth, I realized that I was enjoying the future of sporty driving.

The 500 is a very cool city car, but get this 135 bhp racing version boosted by Fiat’s performance division and it becomes real pocket rocket. Add the Esseesse package and it packs a roaring 160 bhp punch.

As road speed limits are set, why would you need anything faster? It’s cars like this — that are reasonably-priced, practical, economical daily drivers but fun to race at the weekend — that people will be turning to as finances feel the squeeze.

The 500 Abarth has a gear-shift indicator to help you get the best performance when it’s in “sport” mode, and the best economy when it’s not — the best of both worlds.

The sporty Fiat 500 Abarth edition (available in Europe only) does 0-100 km/h in 7.9 seconds, and it looks very cool.

Before long wildly impractical, two-seater luxury sports cars will be passe for the average person. For a start, they’ll be out of everyone’s price league — right now city bankers are flooding the market with second-hand supercars they can no longer afford or justify.

It’s not just the purchase price, it’s also the cost of insurance, tax, fuel, maintenance, speeding fines, parking and needing a second car for the weekly supermarket run.

The traditional sports car will be like a fur coat, a label of conspicuous consumption that’s going to be out of fashion.

For us city folk, a fast little hot hatch is the way forward.

For us city folk, a fast little hot hatch is the way forward.

Right now the choice is fairly limited — you can buy a MINI Cooper S, the 1.6l 211 bhp MINI John Cooper Works, VW Golf GTI, or Ford Fiesta RS.

However as this segment grows, we’ll see a wider selection on offer — there should be a souped-up Alfa Romeo MiTo, and at Geneva we’ll be seeing a new Renault Clio GT, a MINI-rival Citroen DS, and in the future Audi’s A1 should provide a feisty premium option too.

In the meantime, I’m going back to the hillclimb with my little Fiat 500 Abarth — if you can have this much fun in such a small, stylish city car, why would you want anything else?

New packages for Tundra pickups

Toyota debuted the 2010 Tundra full-size pickup truck and an all-new 4.6-litre V8 engine at the recent Chicago Auto Show.

On display were two new packages, including the debut of an all-new Tundra Platinum Package and the recently announced Tundra Work Truck.

The new 4.6-litre V8 engine will be available on all 2010 model year Tundra models. With 310 hp, 327 lb. ft of torque and internal preliminary fuel efficiency estimates of 15 mpg city and 20 mpg on the highway, the new engine is expected to deliver the best combination of power and fuel economy among any standard V8 in the full-size pickup segment.

Like Tundra’s optional 5.7-litre V8 engine, the new 4.6-litre V8 will be mated with a six-speed automatic transmission.

For Tundra buyers looking for a higher level of refinement and additional convenience features, the 2010 Tundra will offer a new Platinum Package that will be available on 2010 Tundra CrewMax Limited models equipped with the 5.7-litre V8 and Flex Fuel powertrains.

Designed to deliver only the features commercial truck buyers need to get the job done, the Tundra work truck will be offered at a reduced MSRP.

Tundra models equipped with the work truck are expected to carry a price adjustment less than the truck's standard starting price, depending on the model.

Final pricing of the work truck will be announced shortly before the vehicle goes on sale this spring.

On the outside, the Tundra work truck Package will include black bumpers and grille surround, replacing chrome. Power mirrors are replaced by manual outside rearview mirrors.

Inside, the truck comes with easily washable vinyl bench seats and rubber floors. To appeal to target buyers, several Tundra standard personal-use features have been replaced or removed.

FROM CARGUIDE

The CrewMax model of the 2010 Toyota Tundra

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Smooth operator

Subtle improvements in new Hyundai Sonata

The 2009 Hyundai Sonata

JIM KERR
for Metro Canada

Hyundai's Sonata is a mid-size sedan with the interior room of a full size sedan. Available in three models, prices start at $21,995 for a GL model four-cylinder and range up to $31,495 for a fully loaded Limited V6 model. The Sonata Sport is priced between these two and features a small lip spoiler, leather bolsters on the seats with cloth inserts, performance tires and sport-tuned suspension. Riding a little firmer than the GL or Limited models but with a ride still supple enough it is comfortable for all day drives.

Subtle exterior differences distinguish the three Sonata models. Sport models have five-spoke alloy wheels, while Limited models have chrome exterior door handles and bumper inserts. All share the redesigned front end, with a deeper grille, larger headlamps and a new bumper cover with larger air intake. The major exterior body panels remain the same as last year but new tail lights and compact "shark fin" radio antenna on the roof identify the 2009 model. The big changes for the '09 Sonata are found inside and under the hood.

From the driver's seat, I recognized the new more contemporary dash design but I wasn't overwhelmed like I have been in the past with previous Sonata models.

Perhaps that is because every previous Sonata has been such a dramatic improvement over its predecessor. For 2009, changes are more subtle. The new dash layout is modern and refined. The design is clean and uncluttered, and there is added functionality too.

I loved the USB and power connection in the centre console for my iPod. I plugged in a USB memory stick with some music and the audio display instantly recognized it, provided artist and album information and allowed easy selection of songs. The steering wheel controls make selections even easier.

2009 Hyundai Sonata

Type: Mid-size sedan
Price: $21,995 (base MSRP)
Engine: 2.4 Litre DOHC
HP: 175 at 6000 rpm
Torque: 168 lb.ft. torque at 4000 rpm

Highlights

- Modernized interior
- USB connection
- Smooth, comfortable ride

Other standard features on all models include heated seats, ABS brakes, side airbags for front and rear seat passengers, tilt/telescopic steering, air conditioning and leather-wrapped steering wheel. V6 equipped cars also get stability control and traction control. Sport and Limited models also get a glass sunroof.

The new four-cylinder engine displacement remains the same at 2.4 litres, but the addition of variable valve timing has increased horsepower from 162 hp to 175 hp for the 2009 model. City fuel economy is now rated at 9.5 L/100 km and highway rating is 6.2 L/100 km.

On the road, the four-cylinder engine operates smoothly and quietly with fair power. The V6 engine is much quicker, especially noticeable when climbing hills or passing other cars but I could easily live with the power of the four-cylinder.

The five-speed automatic is new this year and helps performance. It shifts smoothly and the shift lever does have a manual mode if you desire a sportier feel.

The Sonata offers a quiet comfortable ride even on rough pavement and gravel roads.

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AWD ALL WHEEL DRIVE

2009 SX4 Hatchback

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6.5 L/100KM HIGHWAY (43 MPG)Δ

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Escape to economical SUV

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Fuel efficiency is Job One these days in the automotive business and Ford couldn't have picked a better time to tweak its best-selling Escape SUV.

The top-selling compact SUV in Canada, the Escape gets a more powerful and fuel-efficient Duratec 2.5-litre inline four-cylinder engine for 2009, combined with a six-speed automatic transmission. A five-speed manual transmission is also offered on the XLT model.

Along with a more aerodynamic body style and new low low-rolling resistance tires, fuel economy has been improved slightly over the previous model, which boasted a smaller 2.3-litre engine. The new engine produces 171 hp, up from 153 in the old model.

Also upgraded for 2009 is an optional 240 hp 3.0-litre V6 engine. The displacement is the same, but the horsepower is improved by 20 per cent.

2009 Ford Escape XLT

Type: Compact SUV
Price: XLT 2.5-litre FWD manual $24,499; XLT 2.5-litre FWD automatic $25,599; XLT 3.0-litre FWD $27,199; XLT 2.5-litre 4WD $27,999; XLT 3.0-litre 4WD $29,599.
Engine: 2.5L I-4 (171 hp, 171 lb/ft), 3.0L V6 (240 hp, 223 lb/ft), 2.5 L I-4 Atkinson cycle hybrid (153 hp, 136 lb/ft) with electric motor (94 hp, 152 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Improved fuel economy
- Capless fuel filler system

Largely unchanged on the exterior, the Ford Escape has been tweaked mechanically for 2009, resulting in more power and better fuel economy with both the four-cylinder and V6 engines.

A third engine option is the 2.5-litre I-4 hybrid model, producing a net of 177 hp.

Trim levels include the XLT, both front- and four-wheel drive and Limited. The XLT is well equipped with standard features such as AM/FM stereo single CD player with MP3 capability, SIRIUS satellite radio, automatic headlamps, front fog lamps, 16-inch cast aluminum wheels, power windows/door locks, heated side view mirrors, keyless entry, steering wheel mounted cruise control, six-way drivers seat, front side airbags and roof rack.

A neat new feature on the Escape is a capless fuel-filler system called Easy Fuel. The system automatically seals shut when the hose nozzle is removed and eliminates the possibility of forgetting to replace the gas cap, or not screwing it back on properly.

The exterior look of the Escape is unchanged from last year, however a few chassis changes were included for 2009 including a new rear stabilizer bar and revised shock absorber turning. In addition, the steering system has been retuned for better control and tighter cornering capabilities. To help the stopping capabilities, the ABS brake system was also retuned.

Inside, the Escape is also largely unchanged after significant changes last year.

Inside, materials, fit and finish are impressive and the cabin has a modern, up-to-date look.

However, seating has been upgraded through the use of soy-based foam in place of the old petroleum-based products. Materials and fit and finish are impressive and the cabin has a modern, up-to-date look.

On the road, the Escape is easy to manoeuvre and has a car-like driving feel. The four-cylinder engine is quiet at cruising speeds, but noisy on hard acceleration.

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2009 Saturn VUE® XR model shown

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2009 Saturn AURA® XR model shown

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*The 2008/2009 vehicle's Powertrain components are covered by a limited Powertrain component warranty for up to 5 years or 160,000 km, whichever comes first. See Retailer for details and conditions on limited warranty and customer assistance/service features. †Within the first 30 days or 2,500 km of delivery, whichever comes first. You should know this: ‡Cash purchase price includes discounts or other incentives which are only available where consumers opt for cash purchase price. By selecting purchase financing offers, consumers will be foregoing such discounts and incentives, which will result in higher effective interest rates. $4,500/$6,500/$4,000 manufacturer-to-retailer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and $1,000/$0/$1,000 cash alternative to Promise Plus Event available on 2009 Saturn VUE XE/2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XR/2009 Saturn AURA XE. *Such delivery credit is included in the cash purchase prices in this advertisement. See Retailer for details. *Freight ($1,300/$1,300/$1,350) on 2009 Saturn VUE XE/2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XE/2009 Saturn AURA XE not included. Air tax ($100) if applicable, taxes, licence, insurance, registration, administration fees, fees associated with publication/filing at the movable property registry/PPSA, duties, and optional equipment extra. PDI included. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer trade may be necessary. ° Offer valid at participating Saturn Retailers with the purchase of an eligible 2008 or 2009 model year new Saturn vehicle in Canada between February 13, 2009 and June 1, 2009. The No-Charge Maintenance Program coverage period depends on vehicle model and expires after 36 months/60,000 km, 60 months/100,000 km, 36 months/60,000 km or whichever comes first, from the in-service date of the vehicle. This GM No-Charge Maintenance program is a GM Canada marketing program and coverage cannot be redeemed for any cash value. Maintenance Services must be performed at a Saturn Retailer in Canada. This program covers inspections, engine oil and filters change and tire rotation in accordance with the vehicle's oil life monitoring system, if applicable, or as prescribed in the Owner's Manual. Program excludes other replacement parts, fluids, and any "Additional Required Services," as outlined in the Owner's Manual that may be identified during the inspection of the vehicle. See Retailer for details. ‡§Offers apply as indicated to the 2009 Saturn VUE XE/the 2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XE with manual transmission and the 2009 Saturn AURA XE models (excluding hybrid models) and apply to qualified retail and eligible fleet customers in the Ontario Marketing Association Area only. See your Retailer, visit Saturn.ca or call 1-888-4SATURN for conditions and details. ^All qualifying OnStar equipped vehicles will receive a 2-year promotional period of OnStar with Directions & Connections service. OnStar services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. Subscription Service Agreement required. Visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Statement and details and system limitations. ◆All qualifying XM factory equipped vehicles will receive a 2-year promotional period of XM Satellite Radio service. Monthly subscription sold separately after two-year promotional period. XM Radio service is available in 10 Canadian provinces and the 48 contiguous states in the United States. For more information visit xmradio.ca. °Based on 2009 Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide. Applies to 2009 Saturn VUE XE and 2009 Saturn AURA XE. Consumption numbers and comparison excludes hybrid models. Fuel efficiency data for the 2008 Saturn ASTRA 5-Door XE with manual transmission based on 2008 Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. See Retailer for details. GM reserves the right to amend or terminate these offers and/or the program for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time, without notice. ECOTEC is a registered trademark of General Motors Corporation. ®OnStar is a registered trademark of OnStar Corporation. Saturn and its logos are registered trademarks of Saturn Corporation. ©2009 Saturn Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Little Mermaid takes a big trip

The Little Mermaid, the landmark statue that's stood on the edge of Copenhagen's harbour since 1913, is going to leave Denmark for the first time. It will travel to next year's World Exhibition in Shanghai to be the centrepiece of Denmark's official pavilion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

Summer blockbuster

Some of the most celebrated names in Italian art are coming to Ottawa this summer, as The National Gallery of Canada presents a world exclusive exhibit called From Raphael to Carracci: The Art of Papal Rome from May 29 to Sept. 7. Masters including Michelangelo, Salviati, Vasari, and Barocci will be strongly represented. See gallery.ca/raphael. At left, Raphael's Portrait of Bindo Altoviti, c. 1515. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Essential Essaouira

Morocco's most surprising city is worth the trip from Marrakech

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

ISTOCKPHOTO

Left, an evening view of the walled town or Medina in Essaouira, Morocco.

MOSAIKPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/ISTOCKPHOTO

Goats forage for argan nuts.

MIGUEL LULHMANN-NEVES

An interior view of the Riad al Madina.

Why go now?

On the receiving end of trade winds on Morocco's Atlantic coast, the so-called "city of wind" has a mild climate all year round, between 17 C and 25 C. It's also fairly quiet, though in summer it does see more European tourists. Better yet, prices are still accessible in Morocco's most surprising city.

It's my first time visiting. What should I do there?

To get there, you can fly into Marrakech and take a coach or shared taxi to Essaouira. Take a stroll around the pedestrian streets of the Medina or walled town, a UNESCO World Heritage site. As well as shops and cafés you'll find traces of the Portuguese who occupied the city in the 15th century, and named it Mogador.

Some sites are very well preserved including the fortress and the skala of the kasbah (the fortress terrace), a place that inspired '70s rock stars including Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones. This beautiful Atlantic city also seduced director Orson Welles, who shot Othello here — his time here is commemorated with a statue and a square named after him.

I've been here before. What should I visit this time?

Hit the beach. Windsurf and kitesurf lovers make a pilgrimage here for the optimum weather conditions. Moulay Bouzerktoun and Sidi Kaouki are the enthusiasts' most popular beaches.

Although there is a tolerant spirit in the city, which has been a gathering point of many religions throughout history, you should bear in mind local customs — it is not a good idea to sunbathe topless. It's also worth trying the local steam baths or hammam.

What and where should I eat?

Lots of fresh fish and seafood straight off the boat, a nice alternative to the tajine or traditional Moroccan stew.

For fresh fish, tajines and other specialities try the French-run Le Pátio, (28 rue Moulay Rachid). Le Coquillage is at the fishing port and serves fish and seafood fresh off the boats, with a view over the sea.

Dinner next to the fireplace or in the refreshing courtyard at Riad al Madina, (9 rue Attarine) is lovely; sipping mint tea and tasting a sweet local pastry in one of the Moulay Hassan Square coffee shops is an essential part of visiting the city.

Where should I stay?

Travellers should look for restored palaces and riads — with interior courtyards and a fountain — where you can soak up the traditional Moroccan ambience.

Try the welcoming Riad al Madina, riadalmadina.com, in one of the main streets of the Medina. The interior of this former 19th century palace was restored, making it a simple but comfortable place to stay for guests who have included Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

Add the friendly, helpful staff and you have the perfect place to stay. Another option is the charming Villa Maroc, villa-maroc.com, also inside the Medina.

Where is the best place for an afternoon shopping?

The Medina and mellah (the Jewish quarter) streets are winding open-air shopping malls. Besides the typical stores there are also jewelry, vegetable, spice and fish souks, as well as a second-hand souk and a flea market, La Joutia.

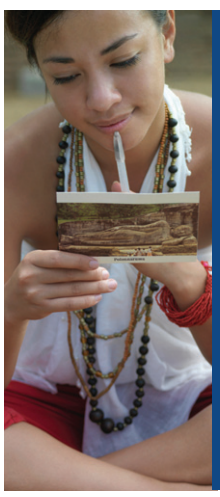
Take advantage of the reasonably-priced crafts including leather goods, lanterns and crafts made of thuya wood, a tree from this region — you can also haggle, but without the Marrakech-style stress.

Bring back some argan oil, a gold-coloured oil with health and beauty benefits that's extracted from the fruit of a tree that's said to grow only in the Taroudant region around Essaouira and on the coast.

The argan tree is also responsible for one of the your stay's most memorable visuals — on the road from Essaouira to Agadir you can see flocks of goats perched in the top of argan trees, grazing on the fruit.

On the web

- visitmorocco.com
- essaouira.com
- essaouira.org



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Oval opens
A 47,500-square-metre rink has opened ahead of the 2010 Olympic speed-skating events. The Richmond Oval, near Vancouver, is open to the public when not in use for sporting events; richmondoval.ca. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burns inspires Homecoming Scotland 2009

Scottish poet Robert Burns gave the English-speaking world some of its most famous sayings and sentiments, including the New Year's favourite Auld Lang Syne and the rhapsody, "My love is like a red, red rose."

Now on the 250th anniversary of his birth, the Scottish government hopes worldwide interest in the poet will create a tourism boom. As part of the 250th celebration, the tourism industry has launched Homecoming Scotland 2009 to attract visitors with Scottish roots from around the world, as well as those who are just curious, back to the old country.

The schedule of some 300 events includes a huge gathering of the clans in Edinburgh in July.

Burns' political radicalism, romantic verse and use of Scots dialect have made him a heroic figure to many Scottish people, especially to nationalists like members of the Scottish National Party, which governs in Edinburgh.

"Burns is the inspiration behind our yearlong celebration of some of Scotland's great contributions to the world: golf, whisky, great minds and innovations, our rich culture, wonderful heritage and of course, Robert Burns himself," said Scottish tourism minister Jim Mather.

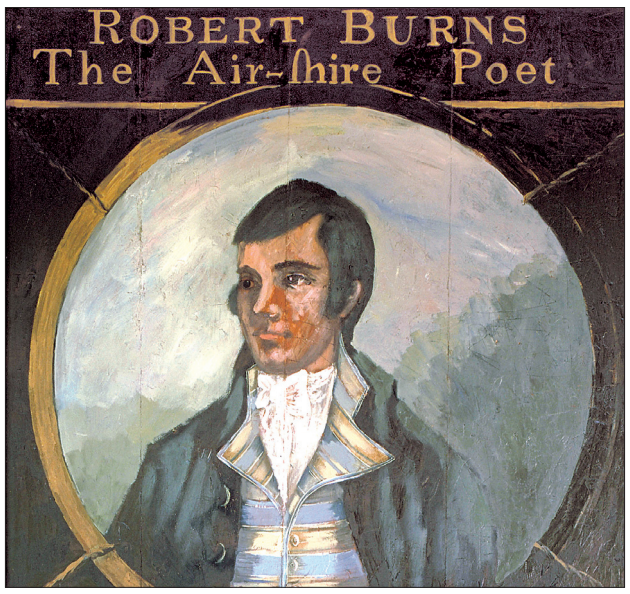
On the web
For more about Homecoming Scotland 2009, visit cometoscotland.com.

The global Scottish diaspora dwarfs Scotland's population of just over five million. More than 4.8 million Americans reported Scottish ancestry in the 2000 census, and more than four million Canadians also claim Scottish roots.

Burns fans may also want to visit places he lived, including Ellisland Farm, Dumfries and Mossgiel Farm in Mauchline. "Burns an' a' That!" festivals are scheduled for the third week of May in East, North and South Ayrshire. Other events and attractions include whisky tastings and distillery tours and 15 trails across Scotland showcasing castles and other heritage sites. Festivals include:

- StAnza, Scotland's Poetry Festival, March 18-22 in St. Andrews
- The Edinburgh International Film Festival, June 17-28
- The International Genealogy Festival, July 21-24
- The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Aug. 7-31
- The Edinburgh International Book Festival, Aug. 15-31
- The Edinburgh International Festival, Aug. 14-Sept. 6.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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A plaque commemorating the birth of Robert Burns "The Ayrshire Poet" at Burns Cottage in Alloway, Scotland.

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See seahorses
The Secret Lives of Seahorses, at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, Calif. as of Apr. 6, will include 15 species of seahorses, sea dragons, pipehorses and pipefish; montereybayaquarium.org. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Please don't lick the fish

Massive Tokyo market overwhelmed by pesky tourists

Tourists are known for acting silly sometimes. You have to cut them some slack. But licking the tuna?

KATSUMI/KASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitors watch frozen tunas on the floor during a morning auction at Tokyo's Tsukiji fish market.

Overwhelmed by an increasing number of misbehaving tourists at the world's largest seafood market, Tokyo fishmongers last month decided to put their foot down, temporarily banning all visitors from one of the most popular tourist destinations in the city — their predawn tuna auctions.

The ban, which was lifted earlier this month, was front-page news in Japan. Now, the tourists are back, but the debate goes on: Can tourists be trusted in Tsukiji?

"We understand that the sight of hundreds of frozen tuna looks unique and interesting for foreign tourists," said Yoshiaki Takagi, the deputy director of the market. "But they have to understand the Tsukiji market is a professional place, not an amusement park."

The sprawling Tsukiji market dates back to the 16th century, when the military rulers who had just moved Japan's capital to Tokyo — then called Edo — wanted to ensure they had a proper channel to get enough fish to their hungry vassals at the nearby castle.

Today, Japan is the world's biggest consumer of seafood. The market handles 480 kinds of seafood, bringing around 40,000 buyers and sellers daily. The value of its seafood trade amounts to $20 million US per day on average. It is the kind of place that Japanese take for granted.

But because of its long history, the traditional way that the fish are auctioned off by men in rubber boots and baseball hats using arcane hand signals, and the sheer volume and variety of fish available there every day, it has become a big hit with foreigners. But popularity has brought its problems.

One of the more notorious recent cases was that of a drunken British tourist, caught by a Japanese TV crew, who licked the head of a frozen tuna while two others, also caught on TV, rode on a trolley used by wholesalers. "Tuna is a very expensive fish," Takagi said. "One tuna can easily cost more than 1 million yen (about $13,000 CDN). But some tourists touch them and even try to hug them."

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RICARDO MORAES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Vila Isabel samba school float parades on Monday at the Sambodrome in Rio de Janeiro.

What crisis? The downturn can't stop Brazil's Carnival

From where he sits inside Rio's Sambadrome, a snack vendor mulls what the global financial crisis means for "the greatest party on earth." First, the bad news: fewer foreigners at this year's Carnival.

"The gringos who are coming this year — there are substantially fewer, and those who are coming are spending less money," Cagiza Acides Paixao said.

On the upside: In Rio, nothing can stop a good time.

"Carnival in Brazil — with its marvellous sun, beaches, samba all year round, and, you know, the girls — it will shine, with or without a crisis," Paixao said as samba music blasted from his small shop.

So it goes for the anything-goes pre-Lenten drink-and-flesh fest, which ran through yesterday.

While the percentage of foreigners in the crowds is expected to drop to 30 per cent from about half, Rio's official tourism agency expects Brazilians to make up the difference, for about 719,000 tourists, a slight increase over last year's 705,000.

They are expected to inject $521 million US into the city's economy, up from $510 million last year.

And the government still plans to dole out 65 million free condoms.

For weeks, dour reports have splashed across the pages of Brazil's newspapers: Top samba schools don't have the money to finish their floats. A handful of small cities in Brazil's interior cancelled Carnival altogether.

> **"This is the year of creativity, because the artists have to redouble their efforts to be able to compete for the championship."**
> Cahe Rodrigues

With fewer foreigners spending dollars and euros, locals will struggle to bring in the money they count on to make ends meet all year.

The schools have struggled this year to land corporate sponsors to help pay the $2.5 million on average that each club spends on its parade show, said Cahe Rodrigues, the "carnavelsco" responsible for designing the themes, costumes and floats for the top-contending Grande Rio samba school.

"This (is) the year of creativity, because the artists have to redouble their efforts to be able to compete for the championship," said Rodrigues, whose show was to include hundreds of drummers and a replica of the Moulin Rouge. "This year is forcing the carnavalescos to push their imaginations."

Some of the fiercely competitive schools have reportedly been forced to save money by trading basic construction materials this year. And one, Imperio Serrano, is using 5,000 plastic bottles to build a huge octopus for its Mysteries of the Sea float.

So far, they appear to focus on non-controversial themes, like celebrating the ties between France and Brazil. There has been no hint of provocative presentations like last year's Holocaust float, which prompted international outrage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Deal-hunting
A Priceline.com expert says leisure travellers could benefit from a drop-off in business conventions. Big convention cities will be offering more aggressive discounts in an effort to attract tourists. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Another view of the Maldives

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

SAKIS PAPADOPOULOS/THE IMAGE BANK

An aerial shot of Male, capital of the Maldives.

Each year thousands of holiday-seekers travel to the Maldives for sun, fun and relaxation. A huge honeymoon destination, these islands just off the coast of Sri Lanka are marketed as paradise on earth, what with their white sandy beaches, turquoise waters and palm trees swaying in the tropical breeze. But outside the tourist zone, far from the comfort of five star resorts and all-inclusive hotels, there's another side to this string of idyllic islands.

Curious about life outside the tourist bubble, I travelled to the commercial hub of Male (pronounced mal-eh), a densely populated urban centre and capital of the Maldives. Home to one-third of the country's population, it's one of the world's smallest capital cities, but despite its size, it boasts some interesting attractions for independent travellers.

The fish market, located on the island's northern waterfront, is a great place to begin your tour. Fishing is the second largest industry after tourism, so it's an important part of Maldivian culture and provides a good excuse to meet the people. Watch as men lug freshly caught tuna from brightly coloured boats and toss glittering silver fish from vessel to shore.

From there, take a stroll along the seawall, where locals come after sundown to jog and socialize. From nearby vendors sample the sugary treat called Kili, a grainy powder that combines betel nut, cinnamon and cloves.

If you're in the mood for a little cultural heritage, check out Mulee-aage Palace, which serves as the Presidential office, or visit the National Museum's exhibit of sultan antiques. Though there are several architectural icons around the city, the majestic golden dome of the Friday Mosque is the most notable. This working Islamic centre that can hold some 5,000 devotees is not only the island's biggest mosque, it's also a great point of reference when exploring the city by foot.

Walking around Male, I spotted motorized scooters weaving in and out of traffic. Giant bats dangled from mango trees, as women wrapped in headscarves rushed past 17th century fortresses.

The city was a grid-lock of narrow streets, crazy construction and pot holed roads. With single file sidewalks, Male wasn't a particularly pedestrian friendly place but there was charm in her vividly painted houses, bustling vegetable markets and distinct local culture.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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- Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series that follows travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN.

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Whistler has plenty to entertain non-skiers

Visitors who come to the world-famous ski resort of Whistler, B.C., but don't want to carve powder on the slopes can always cannonball from mountain to mountain through towering trees of ancient rainforests.

ZIPTREK ECOTOURS

A visitor swings on a zip line in Whistler, B.C. Those who come to the world-famous ski resort but don't want to hit the slopes can opt to soar mid-air between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains.

"It's amazing. You're 200 feet up in the tree canopy, which is a spectacular setting," said Warrick Hubbard of Ziptrek Ecotours, which has been running zipline tours for seven years.

"But it's also ominous when you're sort of looking out and saying 'OK, I'm about to zip across this line and I can barely see the deck on the other side.'

"There's a bit of trepidation, but mostly just excitement."

Ziplining, snowshoeing, heli-glacier tours, tubing and snowcatting are just some of the non-ski activities in this snow mecca, which draws roughly two million visitors a year.

More tourists are expected now that the site, a two-hour drive north of Vancouver in the Coast Mountains, will host some of the events for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

At Ziptrek, guides harness riders to steel lines. The "zippers" then soar over the high-altitude landscape from platform to platform, back and forth between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains, the twin sentinels of rock above this picturesque village.

The harness allows zippers maximum flexibility to fly like a starfish (limbs splayed out), a cannonball or even an upside-down Buddha. "A first-time zipper — they're grasping on with both hands, but by their fourth and fifth lines they're waving their hands and spinning around," said Hubbard.

There are different lines for different groups — families and first-timers tend to go on the Bear Run while seasoned zippers take the plunge on the Eagle, which features an eye-popping line as long as three football fields.

The oldest zipper was 92 while the youngest can be six, said Hubbard. The maximum weight is 275 pounds, the tours run year-round, and anyone who can walk up stairs with no problem can physically handle the climb into the trees. Along the way, guides deliver an eco-curriculum, explaining the history of the coast Douglas firs in the temperate rainforest, showing off Mother Nature at her best.

"It's a chance to get into a pristine location, have a fun activity, gain some understanding and learn about what's going on in the world and right in our backyard," said Hubbard.

About a million tourists visit Whistler in the winter and 1.2 million in the summer, said Breton Murphy of Tourism Whistler. Skiing and snowboarding are still king. Three out of every four winter visitors ski at some point, while 40 per cent snowboard and some do both.

But spas, he said, are becoming more popular — along with myriad other activities like bungee jumping, fishing, backcountry tours, sleigh rides, paintball, tree-trekking, ice climbing, ice skating and cross-country skiing.

Those who want to look rather than leap can go on an eagle-watching tour or head over to the Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre and learn about dugout canoes, cedar and wool weavings, art and artifacts from two of Canada's First Nations.

The newest attraction may be the signature one - the Peak 2 Peak gondola ride, which opened two months ago. It takes visitors on a slow-speed, 11-minute ride more than 400 metres over the gorge that divides the mountains, with Fitzsimmons Creek appearing below like a squiggly black line on a sheet of snowy white paper. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- ziptrek.com
- tourismwhistler.com

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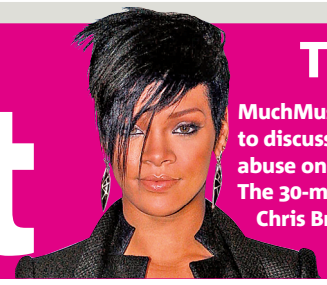
Hilton makes citizen's arrest
Don't mess with Nicky Hilton. After being pushed to the ground by a homeless person at a West Hollywood IHOP at 5 a.m. Saturday morning, the heiress made a citizen's arrest, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesman has confirmed. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment



TV special

MuchMusic will give youth a forum to discuss the hot button topic of abuse on MuchTalks this evening. The 30-minute special will focus on Chris Brown and Rihanna.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.

Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience opens in theatres on Friday.

Concerts on film

Jonas Brothers project could revive genre

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

I'm going to come right out and say it: The Jonas Brothers may just revive the idle genre of concert movies.

Not only do I say this because the teen trio has a dedicated following of hardcore pre-pubescent fans that will undoubtedly line up endlessly to see Jonas Brothers: The 3-D Concert Experience — in theatres on Friday — but the movie itself was shot using cutting-edge effects that will surely draw those inclined to experience a cinematic rock concert in 3-D form (although U2 did it first in 2007).

While there's no doubt that today's focus in Hollywood is primarily on this new way of witnessing gigs, there were many other stunning concert films before the gimmickry of 3-D came along. While the Jonas Brothers may render the traditional concert film extinct, there are certainly some worth revisiting:

THE T.A.M.I. SHOW (1965): Filmmaker Steve Binder released what some aficionados consider the first-ever concert film. Showcasing the top acts of the day, this rare flick is perhaps most notable for a closing "battle of the bands" sequence between James Brown and The Rolling Stones.

GIMME SHELTER (1970): The Rolling Stones were also the subject of this concert film by the Maysles brothers. Chronicling the band's 1969 tour, this classic movie captured the tragic Altamont gig that ended in the brutal murder of at least one spectator. As a review in the San Francisco Chronicle stated, "few metaphors are as obvious as Altamont's for the death of the free-love '60s."

WOODSTOCK (1970): With groundbreaking appearances by Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane and Joan Baez, Woodstock is often considered the greatest concert film ever. Not only did it win an Oscar for best documentary, but it set the gold standard for the genre.

THE LAST WALTZ (1978): Martin Scorsese took it upon himself to direct The Band's farewell performance in 1976. Not only did he capture the Canadian legends' skill on stage but Scorsese gives it his visual masterstroke as well.

STOP MAKING SENSE (1983): Directed by Jonathan Demme (Philadelphia), this Talking Heads concert film is a tribute to the showmanship of the pop act behind hits like Burning Down the House. The band may have split up in 1991, but this indelible film is still a stunning work of art.

Ticketmaster to change online sales system

LAWSUIT Ticketmaster has agreed to change its online ticket sales process after butting heads with Bruce Springsteen and his fans, but an Ontario lawsuit against the company will go ahead.

Ticketmaster reached a settlement with New Jersey, where the Springsteen concert had been scheduled, said state Attorney General Anne Milgram. Ticket seekers were redirected from the Ticketmaster site to a subsidiary that charged more.

A spokesman for Ticketmaster wouldn't say what effect the settlement would have in Canada.

Two Canadian firms have filed a class-action suit claiming Ticketmaster had broken Ontario's anti-scalping laws by directing consumers to TicketsNow, a site owned by Ticketmaster where tickets are generally far more expensive than the original price. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Hills star robbed

Sunday was rough for Audrina Patridge — her Los Angeles home got robbed. "I had a really rough day today — I got home late last night and realized that my house had been robbed," The Hills star blogged on Monday. "It was pretty devastating." **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Degrassi co-creator to receive Maverick award

TV Degrassi co-creator Linda Schuyler is being recognized with the Female Eye Maverick Award.

The prize is a newly created honour by the Female Eye Film Festival, an annual showcase of features, short films and documentaries by female directors.

Festival director Leslie Ann Coles says Schuyler is being celebrated as "one of the most successful, innovative and progressive women" in the TV industry.

Linda Schuyler

Schuyler is best known for co-creating and executive producing the Degrassi series including The Kids of Degrassi Street, Degrassi Junior High, Degrassi Talks and Degrassi: The Next Generation. Schuyler will be presented with the award March 26 in Toronto.

This year's roster includes feature Cwcw, about a woman whose attempt to escape from her intolerable life ends in madness and She Should Have Gone to the Moon, a documentary about Jerri Truhill, one of NASA's first female astronauts. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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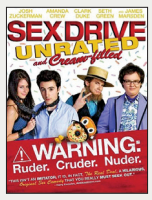
APOTEX
ADVANCING GENERICS

DVD picks

Sex Drive

Director: Sean Anders



IS IT WRITTEN somewhere that teen comedies have to get even more down-and-dirty when they go to DVD? "Warning: Ruder, Cruder, Nuder" reads the come-on for the two-disc set of this small comic gem, which was plenty rude, crude and nude enough in its multiplex incarnation last fall. But it was also very funny. It steals so shamelessly, from The Sure Thing to American Pie and everything in between, that at times it's almost like watching a teensploitation genre highlights reel. The saving grace is that the film's creators know that you're onto them. So they just roll with it (did I mention this is also a road movie?) and toss in hilarious changeups that make Sex Drive seem fresher than it is. Josh Zuckerman's nerdish Ian steals the cherished vintage Pontiac GTO of knuckle-dragging older brother Rex (James Marsden) for a hormonal quest from Chicago to Tennessee. He's accompanied by pals Felicia (Amanda Crew) and Lance (Clark Duke), and vexed by an Amish mechanic (Seth Green). What do you also want to bet that the trip will involve numerous rude and violent moments, breakdowns both mechanical and emotional, as well as scrapes with the police, angry husbands, psychopathic rednecks and a very unhappy Rex?

Seth Green, left, and Clark Duke in teen comedy Sex Drive.

What Just Happened

Director: Barry Levinson

YOU'D PROBABLY need a veteran Hollywood psychiatrist to explain Tinseltown's fascination with its own muck. While rock 'n' rollers celebrate their art (are you ready to rawk?) movie stars, directors and producers love to moan about how tough life is at 24 frames per second.

DVD delete bins overflow with movies about the idiocy of making movies. For every razor-sharp satire like Robert Altman's The Player (still the gold standard), there are a dozen blunt instruments like Barry Levinson's What Just Happened.

Robert De Niro cashes another paycheque as Ben, a film producer on the skids. Ben has seen better times at work and at home, and he's in desperate need of a hit.

The jokes are so inside-Hollywood they're claustrophobic.

Masochists will delight at the numerous extras, which include an audio commentary by Levinson and writer/producer Art Linson and three deleted scenes. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Lighten up on Slumdog, Yeoh says

MOVIES One of Asia's top actresses yesterday defended Oscar winner Slumdog Millionaire against criticism that the film glossed over the reality of life in the slums of Mumbai.

Michelle Yeoh

Former Bond girl Michelle Yeoh — who worked with Slumdog director Danny Boyle on the 2007 sci-fi movie Sunshine — said the film was a fairy tale and shouldn't be confused with what life is actually like for India's poor.

"I've been to Mumbai," Yeoh said at the Asian Film Awards. "The harsh reality of the place is such that there are certain places where it's horrible."

She said Boyle had to make Slumdog Millionaire upbeat because the true story of what it is like to live in a slum wouldn't have appealed to audiences. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sporty Spice gives birth
Sporty Spice is a mommy. Melanie Chisholm has welcomed a baby girl, she announced on her website. Scarlett Starr was born Sunday. USMAGAZINE.COM

Clooney's Oscar night meeting with Obama

George Clooney apparently had a good reason for skipping out on Oscar night: He had a meeting with President Obama.

The Oscar-winning actor appeared Monday on CNN's Larry King Live and spoke of his visit earlier that morning with Obama to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Sudan's Darfur region.

Clooney said he told the president of his visit to camps in Chad where 250,000 refugees live, but he downplayed the risks he took to witness the suffering first-hand.

"I don't think people should be going there and coming back and saying how it affected them," Clooney told King via satellite from the White House lawn. "I think somehow we should all know that these people are hanging on by the skin of their teeth."

Clooney, a UN Messenger of Peace, said he asked the president to appoint a full-time regional envoy who reports directly to the White House, and to ask China to set aside its business interests in the region and pressure Sudan to prevent atrocities.

Clooney

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The new L'Oreal Paris man
L'Oreal Paris has named Patrick Dempsey as the new international spokesperson for the brand outside the U.S. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taking it all in stylish strides

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Project Runway Canada had its first shocker-elimination last night as Montreal designer Baylor Orlando, 37, got sent home.

Orlando had frequently garnered praise as one of the show's stronger competitors but the judges found his re-worked wedding dress, made from a sari, overly complex and unflattering.

For last night's task, the designers' usual size-zero models were swapped out for a batch of divorced women of all shapes, sizes and heights. Designers had to take the divorcees' old wedding dresses and transform them into outfits that reflected their new single life.

While Orlando's creation didn't appeal to the judges, Vancouver designer Kim Cathers' monstrous hodge-podge creation of slashed fabric and mismatched elements was horrifying even to Cathers herself and she said the dress was "ill-fitting and looked like a garbage bag."

Despite the judges all agreeing that Cathers' dress was a disaster, show host Iman convinced them she saw potential in Cathers and eventually Orlando got the boot instead.

For his part, Orlando isn't one to feel sorry for himself.

"I never like to play the victim. As a designer you have to be able to take criticism because it makes you a better designer. You have to listen to critics, learn from them and move on," Orlando said.

He is proud of the work he did on the show and says he was surprised the judges didn't like his dress because he was confident about it going into judging.

"Sometimes, something you really like, other people won't like. I love every piece I did and I have no regrets," he said.

Baylor Orlando had frequently garnered praise as one of the show's stronger competitors.

When to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. ET on Global.

Orlando previously designed bridal and evening gowns in his home country of Venezuela before moving to Canada to pursue his career dreams.

"I left everything behind when I moved from Venezuela to Canada — this is the country where I want to succeed," Orlando said.

Orlando currently designs handbags and accessories for a Montreal company and hopes to launch his own clothing line in the future. He says being on the show has been an amazing experience that proved he doesn't shy away from adventure.

"The show has allowed me to confirm that it's never too late to take challenges as a designer."

TO	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 2/25/09	265	353	2	TVO	Martin Clunes: Man and Dogs		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Little Dorrit (N)		Human Edge "Brides of Allah" (N)		
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA)		Life "Hit Me Baby" (N)		(10:06) Life on Mars		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two-Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went		Being Erica (N)	(DVS)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real "Boom"		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol (HDTV) Semifinalists perform. (Live)				CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser (N)		Party Monsters: Cabo (N)		Donald Trump: THS		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest 2		*Passage du milieu* (2000, Drame Historique)			Photos	La Profondeur
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Snowboard Academy* ★ (1997, Comedy) Jim Varney.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Biggest Loser (N)		Life "Hit Me Baby" (N)		Law & Order "Rumble"		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost "316" (HDTV)		Lost (HDTV) (N)		(10:06) Life on Mars		News
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	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	American Idol (HDTV) Semifinalists perform. (Live)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Ray Charles at Montreux		America's Ballroom Challenge (N)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Privileged (HDTV)		90210 (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Privileged
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Tropic of Capricorn		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Presents "Black in America: The Black Woman & Family"				Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
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	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey New York Rangers at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Curling: Scotties Tournament of Hearts		
	411	457	58	OLN	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman
family	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
	551	542	25	YTV	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Bag	Grocery	How Clean	How Clean	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Redemption	Pimp My Ride	MuchNews	Video on Trial	PunchMuch
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Futbol Liga de UEFA Champions Chelsea vs. Juventus.				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Confessions of a Teen Idol		Confessions of a Teen Idol		Revival
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)		Big Love (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Chop Shop (N)	Mr. Friday	Real Housewives of OC		Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Left for Dead"		Cities of the Underworld		The 1927 Mississippi Flood		NCIS "Left for Dead"		Little Rock
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Sleepers* ★★★ (1996, Crime Drama) Kevin Bacon, Robert De Niro.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*The Matrix Reloaded* ★★★ (2003, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss.						Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Deus Ex Machina"		Star Trek: Voyager		Pretty Bloody Women.		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Degrassi	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef (Part 2 of 2)		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	SOUL "Seducing Spirits"		Tuscany		Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small (N)	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags (SC)	Star Académie:	Destinées "Strip-tease" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Det.	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:55) *Rendition* ★★ (2007, Suspense), Alan Arkin				*The Bourne Ultimatum* ★★★ (2007, Action) Matt Damon.				*1408*
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:10) *Perfectly Normal* ★★ (1991, Comedy)				*Mulholland Falls* ★★ (1996, Mystery) Nick Nolte.				*Little Criminals*

critics' corner

Pretty Bloody
Horror is for guys, right? Made by guys for guys who want to see blood and breasts, right? While the horror genre may be male-dominated, it does have its share of women in roles other than scream queen — director, for example. This new special traces women's contribution to the horror genre with film clips and interviews with directors Mary Lambert ("Pet Sematary") and Katt Shea ("Stripped to Kill"), actress Debbie Rochon and more. 10 PM on SPC

Human Edge
The stereotypical picture of a terrorist that most of us carry in our heads is male. But women have been involved in suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks as well. The new documentary "Brides of Allah" goes inside an Israeli prison that houses women who have taken part in such attacks, following them over two years and revealing some surprising information about their motivations. 10 PM on TVO

In brief

MEMOIR A memoir by Isabel Gillies, who plays Kathy Stabler on NBC's Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, will be the next book featured at Starbucks stores. Gillies' Happens Every Day, which tells of the collapse of her marriage to DeSales Harrison, will be published on March 24.

HISTORICAL The English holiday home where Agatha Christie spent her summers and entertained guests with readings from her thrillers is opening to the public for the first time. Christie bought the house near Dartmouth in southwest England in 1938.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

Read the fashion blog exclusively at metronews.ca/blogs

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Deborah has a baby
Singer Deborah Cox and her husband, Lascelles Stephens, welcomed baby girl Kaila Michelle to the world on Monday. The couple, who have been married for almost 11 years, have two other children. INTOUCHWEEKLY.COM

Watching Lynch get lost in his own world

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

If there is another American artist alive like David Lynch, this writer isn't aware of them.

The über-eccentric filmmaker has been responsible for some of the wildest and weirdest worlds ever committed to film, including such commercially successful cult favorites as Blue Velvet, Mullholland Drive and TV's Twin Peaks.

Lynch is master of many mediums and has quietly made his mark as one of the most unique painters and visual artists of our generation. And yet, because of Lynch's mainstream triumphs in cinema, the art world has long either ghettoized or outright dismissed his efforts.

This woeful oversight is one of the chief reasons award winning filmmaker Marina Zenovich opted to follow him for her short picture David Lynch: The Air is on Fire/Milano — which is receiving its world premiere this Saturday as part of the sixth Annual Canadian Art Reel Artists Film Festival.

But the idea of getting Lynch on board was initially met with some resistance.

"David's a bit inaccessible but that's just who he is," says Zenovich, whose film Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired was voted one of the best five documentaries of 2008 by the National Board of Review.

"He liked the concept but didn't want us to film him too much. That was hard. But he came around and I think the film has the perfect amount of access to him."

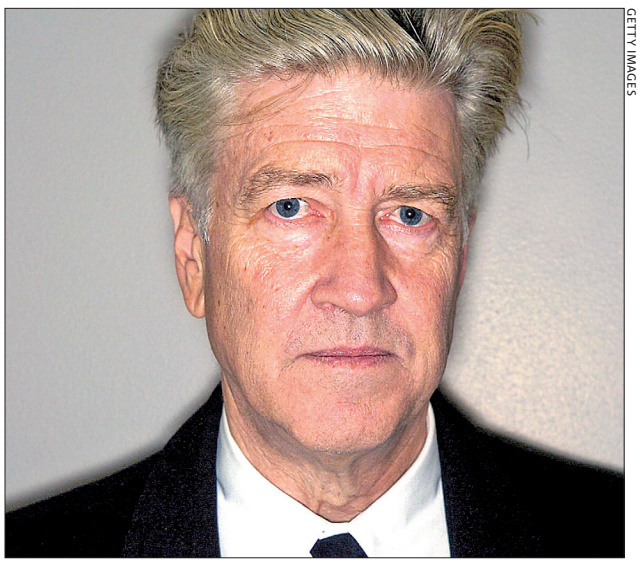
The documentary sees Zenovich following Lynch to Milan to document his retrospective exhibition called The Air is on Fire. Scenes of the artist preparing for the show are intercut with testimonials from regular Lynch collaborators Laura Dern and Dennis Hopper (both co-starred in his 1986 masterpiece Blue Velvet) and exhibition curator Ilana Shamoon.

"I think David is a true artist in every sense of the word," says Zenovich. "And, that is inspiring. He talks in the film about just getting lost in working. I am so jealous of that ability.

"What I love about the film is that you feel like you really see someone in the creative moment and he's so involved in what he's doing that I actually think he forgot that we were even there, filming him."

Film fest

- The sixth Annual Canadian Art Reel Artists Film Festival runs from Thursday through March 1. Visit canadianart.ca/reelartists for more complete screening information and showtimes.


GETTY IMAGES

David Lynch has been responsible for some of the wildest and weirdest worlds ever committed to film.

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Fortune's claims met with denials

If J.D. Fortune wasn't kicked out of INXS before, it appears as though he is now.

The Canadian singer recently told Entertainment Tonight Canada that his bandmates unceremoniously dumped him at a Hong Kong airport after a 23-month tour, leaving him to live out of a truck.

But INXS creative director Chris Murphy has now disputed Fortune's story.

"Not only are we shocked by the claims, even the place the supposed incident was to have taken place is a mystery to the band," Murphy told the Daily Telegraph.

Fortune shot to stardom when he won the television reality contest Rock Star: INXS in 2005 and became the new frontman for the Aussie rock group. A song he wrote on the show entitled Pretty Vegas became a popular single off the band's subsequent album, Switch.

Murphy told the Daily Telegraph that the other band members — Andrew Farris, Jon Farris, Tim Farris, Kirk Pengilly and Garry Gary Beers — hadn't decided for certain whether Fortune would return to the group.

"In fact he was next on my list to call regarding a very big recording project I am putting together for INXS at present. I guess I have no reason to call him now."
INXS creative director Chris Murphy

"The band have always stated to me that Fortune's services could potentially be contracted again when INXS next tour," he said. "In fact he was next on my list to call regarding a very big recording project I am putting together for INXS at present.

"I guess I have no reason to call him now."

It's not the first time Fortune has been down on his luck. The singer, who spent much of his childhood in New Glasgow, N.S., made headlines when he auditioned for Rock Star, saying that he'd recently been sleeping in his car and panhandling to raise cash to feed his dog.

Just before he was crowned the winner, Fortune said his time on Rock Star had helped him turn his life around. "(This show) has changed me in a really profound way," he told The Canadian Press in 2005. "You become really focused."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No purchase necessary. Limit one entry per person per day. Only 1 grand prize. Approx. retail value $5,000. Must be Canadian resident who is age of majority in province they reside. Excludes Quebec residents. Contest runs from Wednesday, February 11, 2009 through Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Mathematical skill testing question must be answered correctly. Odds of being selected depend on # of eligible entries received. For full set of Contest rules, visit www.slice.ca.

Dance floor hoot for Hough

Julianne Hough will have a hoot on the dance floor when her boyfriend Chuck Wicks joins her on Dancing with the Stars, which kicks off March 9. "It has been so much fun and really hilarious to see Chuck try to dance," she wrote on her MySpace celebrity blog. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

'Predator' Sam still around: Brit's dad

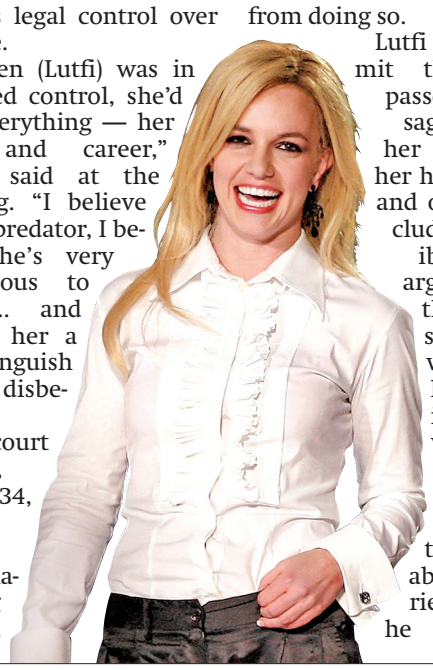
LEGAL Under her father's care and control, Britney Spears now lives a protected life, her access even to telephones strictly restricted, people.com reports Jamie Spears as testifying in a court hearing Monday.

So when the 27-year-old pop star managed to get a prepaid cellphone recently, her security team confiscated it from her purse while she was at a dance practice. Confronted, she revealed the phone was given to her by someone during a hotel stay, the website reports.

And that person, she disclosed, got it from two men whom her father wants to keep permanently in the singer's troubled past: Ex-manager Sam Lutfi and former boyfriend, paparazzo Adnan Ghalib.

Jamie Spears described the cellphone incident in testimony Monday in a Los Angeles court as he sought to maintain a restraining order against Lutfi, whom Jamie has claimed harassed Britney and has sought to undermine Jamie's legal control over her life.

"When (Lutfi) was in so-called control, she'd lost everything — her kids and career," Jamie said at the hearing. "I believe he's a predator, I believe he's very dangerous to her ... and causes her a lot of anguish and disbelief."



In court papers, Lutfi 34, denies he's been harassing Spears, countering that it's been Spears reaching out to him — not the other way around — by sending him text messages even though court orders forbid her from doing so.

Lutfi does admit that he's passed messages on to her through her hairdresser and others, including Ghalib, 36, but argues that the messages weren't harmful in any way.

But Jamie Spears testified about a series of what he called threatening text messages he received last month from someone with the screen name "citygalin310," who he was later "100 per cent" sure was Lutfi. Lutfi's lawyer denied to People that Lutfi was the user of screen name.

Jamie also revealed why his daughter locked herself in a bathroom with son Jayden, leading to her first hospitalization last year.

"She was told by Lutfi she could have her children for another night," Jamie said. But when a bodyguard for her ex-husband Kevin Federline arrived to get the children, "She didn't want to let her kids go because she thought she could have them for another night," Jamie said.

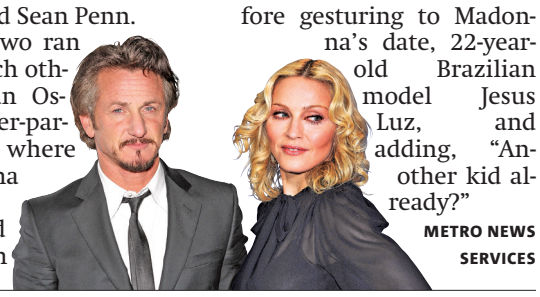
The hearing will resume today with more testimony from other witnesses.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sean and Madonna's run-in

PEOPLE Apparently there's one person who can get away with making fun of Madonna to her face: Ex-husband Sean Penn.

The two ran into each other at an Oscars after-party, where Madonna commended Penn on his best actor win for Milk earlier in the evening, according to Gatecrasher.



"Thanks," Penn said, before gesturing to Madonna's date, 22-year-old Brazilian model Jesus Luz, and adding, "Another kid already?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

I'm healthy and happy: Mischa

HEALTH To anyone who thinks Mischa Barton is wasting away, she has a message on her website: I'm "happier and healthier than ever," people.com reports.

She notes that she is thinner these days, as recent photos in the media have shown, sometimes accompanied by pointed speculation about her health.

"I still love my Pilates and yoga, and have cut back on fatty foods a bit," she says. "My time in India and Paris really just helped me lose a little bit of weight but there's nothing drastic going on."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Baby rumours false: Portia

RUMOUR Portia de Rossi wants to make sure everyone know that she is not undergoing in vitro fertilization treatments in an attempt to get pregnant.

"There's a story around right now about me that could not be further from the truth," de Rossi told Access Hollywood.

When asked if she was referring to the pregnancy rumour, she confirmed, "Yes, that was completely made up."

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hilary the hockey fan

PEOPLE Hilary Duff rows with fans at her boyfriend's hockey games, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer and actress regularly attends New York Islanders games to watch her lover and centre Mike Comrie (who's now with the Ottawa Senators), and isn't afraid to confront "intense fans" who abuse her man.

"I like to sit in the audience, you know I don't sit up in a box or anything, and people started to know that I'm sitting there, and they'll be like 'Mike sucks!' Or they try to rile me up and I'm like, 'Hey, watch it! I'll come up there, you know,'" she said. "But I try to not be that crazy girlfriend."

Duff was not a fan of the sport when they first got together in 2007, but has now learned more about it and considers herself a fan.

The 21-year-old star added: "The first couple of games I went to, I'm like, 'These people are nuts.' They are, like, so into it. And then, I got really into it once I started learning about the game."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

'She could, like, adopt me': Miley on Angelina

PEOPLE Miley Cyrus wants Angelina Jolie to adopt her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 17-year-old star is a big fan of Jolie — who already has three adopted children — and hopes the Changeling star will open her home to her soon.

Miley joked: "She is beautiful. She could, like, adopt me."

Jolie and her partner Brad Pitt raise six children together — adopted sons Maddox, seven, and Pax, five, and four-year-old adopted daughter Zahara, along with two-year-old biological daughter Shiloh and seven-month-old twins Knox and Vivienne.

The Hannah Montana actress also admits she was disappointed not to meet Jolie on the red carpet at the Oscars on Sunday. She said: "I wanted to see Angelina, but I didn't get to see her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Busy Oscar night for Robert

PEOPLE Twilight star Robert Pattinson was a busy man on Oscar night.

After presenting during the telecast, he hit the Vanity Fair after-party, where he was spotted having a long, deep conversation with Natalie Portman, according to E! News.

Pattinson apparently shared another hour-long confab with Paris Hilton at a different party, allegedly even going out into the garden for some private time, before jetting off to Japan at 5 a.m. Busy night, indeed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today
Variable
2° / 0°

Thursday
40%
Rain and snow
5° / -10°

Friday
80%
Rain or snow showers
5° / -14°

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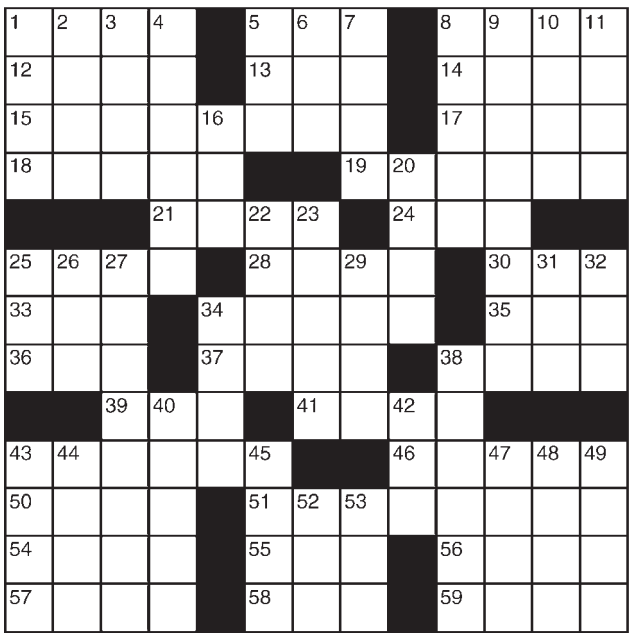
Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			4	7		3	9	8
				8			5	6
		6				2		
9			2				8	
		4				6		
	3				9			1
		5				8		
6	8			1				
4	9	2		6	7			

Crossword across

1 D.C. types, for short
5 Intention
8 Resistance measures
12 Egress
13 "CSI" evidence
14 Tide type
15 Rite
17 Chills and fever
18 Varlet
19 Cop's badge
21 Erstwhile Peruvian
24 Branch
25 Make fun of
28 Ellipse
30 Discoverer's cry
33 Chicken-king link
34 Rainbow fish
35 Just out
36 — canto
37 Individual
38 Choir's rendition
39 Charged bit
41 Clinton opponent
43 Onesie, e.g.
46 Borgnine autobiography
50 Shaving cream additive
51 Silver-white element
54 Sawyer's pal
55 Intimidate
56 Basilica section
57 Santa's sackful
58 Id counterpart
59 Profits

Crossword down

1 Ahab portrayer
2 The yoke's on them
3 Old Italian money
4 Wonder or Nicks
5 Commotion
6 B&B
7 Baseball's "Say Hey Kid"
8 Where the elated walk
9 Domination
10 Manhandle
11 Hurried
16 Chaps
20 Sentry's command
22 Succotash ingredient
23 Duck
25 Poke
26 Hearty quaff
27 Post-breakup payment
29 Car
31 Height of fashion?
32 Possess
34 Melody
38 Lily Munster's hubby
40 Some golf
42 Floral neckwear
43 Transport for 54-Across
44 Medley
45 Fight the clock
47 "Unh-unh"
48 "Meet Me — Louis"
49 Spuds' buds
52 Yuletide beverage
53 Pair

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

D	E	M	I	■	B	I	Z	■	S	E	W	S
I	R	O	N	■	O	R	E	■	A	R	I	A
P	R	O	V	I	D	E	R	■	L	I	N	K
■	■	■	A	N	Y	■	O	R	A	N	G	E
H	A	Y	D	N	■	A	H	E	M	■	■	■
A	L	O	E	■	P	R	O	F	I	L	E	R
S	A	Y	■	R	E	M	U	S	■	A	V	E
P	R	O	M	O	T	E	R	■	D	R	I	P
■	■	■	A	B	E	D	■	M	E	A	L	S
U	S	U	R	E	R	■	P	A	D	■	■	■
K	I	R	K	■	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
E	D	G	E	■	A	Y	E	■	C	I	A	O
S	E	E	R	■	N	E	T	■	E	A	R	N

5	9	3	4	6	2	7	1	8
4	6	1	8	7	9	3	2	5
7	2	8	1	5	3	9	4	6
1	8	9	5	3	4	2	6	7
3	7	6	2	8	1	5	9	4
2	4	5	6	9	7	1	8	3
6	3	4	9	2	5	8	7	1
8	5	2	7	1	6	4	3	9
9	1	7	3	4	8	6	5	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Lamb with Zucchini

INGREDIENTS:
2 tsp (10 ml) sesame oil
1 tbsp (15 ml) lemon juice
1 oz (25 g) fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh mint
12 oz (350 g) lean lamb leg, cut into thin slices
1 1/2 lb (700 g) large waxy new potatoes, scrubbed
1⁄4 cup (60 ml) canola oil
2 zucchini, sliced on the diagonal
6 scallions, sliced on the diagonal
1 cup (250 ml) shelled fresh or frozen peas, thawed if necessary
1 tbsp (15 ml) salt-reduced soy sauce
1⁄3 cup (80 ml) diluted salt-reduced beef or vegetable stock
2 tsp (10 ml) honey

METHOD:
1. Whisk sesame oil, lemon juice, half of ginger and 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped mint in shallow dish. Add lamb and stir, then cover and leave to marinate.
2. Put potatoes in a large pot and pour over boiling water to cover. Bring back to boil, half-cover pot and simmer 12 minutes or until almost tender. Drain and leave until cool enough to handle. Cut across into slices slightly thicker than 1/4 in. (5 mm), then cut slices into sticks. Put into bowl, drizzle with 1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil and gently toss to coat.
3. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in wok or large frying pan. When oil is hot, add lamb and stir-fry over high heat 1 minute or until just browned, but still fairly rare. Remove and set aside.
4. Add remaining oil to wok and, when hot, add sliced zucchini. Stir-fry 1 minute, then add potato sticks. Cook 3-4 minutes, stirring, until lightly browned, taking care not to break up potatoes. Add scallions and cook 1 more minute, stirring.
5. Reduce heat to medium and add peas, soy sauce, stock, honey and remaining ginger. Return lamb with any juices. Stir-fry 2–3 minutes or until liquid is bubbling and everything is tender and hot. Season to taste, scatter remaining chopped mint over top, and serve.

SERVES 4

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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone praises your hard work on a wonderful day. Your judgment is good about marriage plans. Senseless humility is a waste of time.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Nostalgia can't bring anyone back to you. Keep after someone to get more support. Try to remain alert to new possibilities in strange places.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Someone will be grateful if you're truthful. Innuendo will grow stronger after an incident. You'll change your mind about a friendship.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't leave a greedy friend alone. Take notice of a fitness plan and participate. Pamper yourself after breaking horrific habits.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Avoid any daydreaming that will cause pain. Fatalistic and impractical people will rebel. Someone will stay away from a danger zone.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Be suspicious of unusual entertainment plans. You'll search for strange noises at home. You'll say good bye after a commotion.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A suspect makes a bad joke. A man makes a fuss over an important guy. Losing your temper and being malicious is an appalling choice.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Avoid feeling guilty when visiting. Smile when a happy female confesses. The last thing you expect will be a divine experience.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
An elder needs a romantic tryst. An adventurous person will revive your hopes. A shamed guy calls for an update.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A truthful person will come clean. Don't give up when someone makes an emotional impact. A competent person will complete a task.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A friend performs an unusual act. A lonely woman speaks of true love. A fortunate man is forced to take risks.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An old jester will be given something. Make plans with slacker who loves you. Tell your story to a younger guy.

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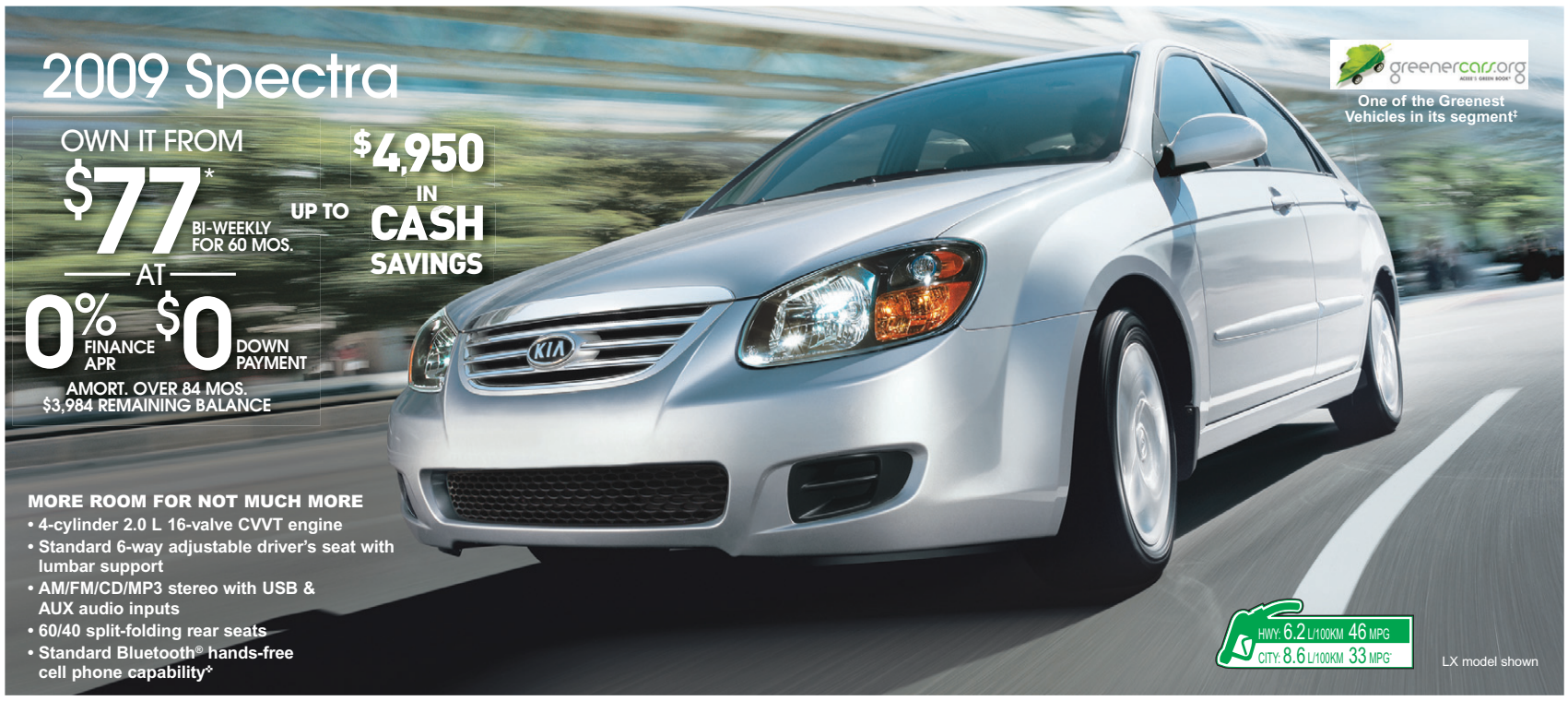

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HWY: 5.9 L/100KM 48 MPG
CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

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$3,800
IN
CASH SAVINGS

2009 Rondo

★★★★★
Crash Test Rating
NHTSA - Frontal impacts††

EX model shown

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One of the Greenest Vehicles in its segment‡

HWY: 7.5 L/100KM 38 MPG
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*Bi-weekly payment for 2009 Spectra LX MT (ST5419) is $77 with an APR of 0% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $3,984 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455 excluded. ◆Cash purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519) is $9,995/$16,995 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$3,000 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$19,995. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. §"Get an instant cash rebate" on all 2009 models. Offer varies by vehicle. See your local participating Kia dealership for full details. ❖0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for a term of up to 36 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Term varies by model. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2009 Spectra LX is 6.2 L (46 MPG)/8.6 L (33 MPG); 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Spectra/Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. ^Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program, see dealer for details. ✣Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ✣Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 models.The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends March 2, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario/Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.